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Team fines Julian Tavarez for 'faggot' comment, local charities could benefit.

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Michelle Garcia targets substance abuse services to transgenders.

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**San Francisco saga**

'Further Tales of the City' on Showtime.

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# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## HIV regs pit privacy against public health

by David Fraser

**H**ow public is private? Beginning later this year, people who test HIV-positive in California may find out they're also part of an exercise in public health policy.

At issue: how secure your identity is once the mandatory reporting of new HIV cases takes effect.

Fresh regulations currently under review would ratchet up personal data collection by the state to help get a better handle on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The rules would require all new HIV diagnoses to be reported to local health agencies, which then would report them to the Office of AIDS in the state Department of Health Services.

Top state health officials see the reporting as necessary to accurately analyze trends in seroprevalence and overall epidemiology, to focus program efforts, and to keep federal funding.

But critics say that the protections promised by the rules are flawed in their attempts to guarantee privacy of individuals and ripe for misuse or abuse.

The state will hold a hearing on the proposed rules at 10 a.m. this Wednesday, May 16, at 714 P Street, Sacramento. Public comments may be made; the overall 45-day comment period will end May 21 at 5 p.m.

**No names are good names?**

The new system would use a complex no-names code called a unique identifier. It encodes pieces of people's surname, keeping the last letter of the surname, and includes birth date and part of their Social Security number.

"We are developing a system that should be invisible to clients completely, so they can go in and get counseling and referrals, if needed," Vanessa Baird, deputy chief of the state Office of AIDS, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It affects only confidential testing sites, not anonymous ones. We very much support anonymous testing as an important option."

Mandatory HIV case reporting would bring California in line with the vast majority of states.

As written, the new rules require health providers from HMOs to local

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## Community Dental braces for the worst

Service provider for PWAs set to shut doors soon

by Katie Szymanski

**D**r. Gene Gowdley has spent the last few weeks firing his staff and packing up supplies. Community Dental Care, which has operated out of the Castro and Mission for the past three years and provided free dental work to people with HIV/AIDS as performed by top-rate dentists, will effectively have to close its doors at the end of this month.

There is going to be "hell to pay," said Gowdley in response to the recent decision by the San Francisco Department of Public Health's AIDS Office to discontinue Ryan White CARE funding to Community Dental, a nonprofit grassroots organization founded and funded as an alternative to dental schools.

In Community Dental's place, the University of California at San Francisco's School of Dentistry has been awarded the CARE funding specific to decentralized dental services, so people with AIDS will still be able to receive free care. But the work will be done by dental students, a factor that Community Dental doctors and patients alike say is a disadvantage and contradicts the very definition of decentralized services. And, according to Gowdley, the DPH decision to award the



Community Dental Care's Dr. Gene Gowdley

ing PWAs out of the best available services.

Not so, according to the technical review report issued by the DPH decision-making panel charged with selecting the recipient of CARE funds. The report cited many weaknesses with Community Dental, including the fact that the agency's proposal for renewed funding "does not address the Tenderloin and shows no experience there," and that the demographic data shows "a large number of Caucasian males being served relative to the total number of clients served." Although listed strengths of Community Dental included the notation that the agency has been providing services for a number of years and that it has good outreach strategies, additional weaknesses of the proposal included, "There is no discussion of HIV discrimination in barriers to care or socioeconomic barriers;" "It is unclear ... why more patients are served in the Castro site versus the Mission site [and] why the full-time employees are lower [fewer] at the Mission site." Additionally, there were no strengths listed for Community Dental's fiscal management. In summary, the report seemed to take issue with the high cost of Community Dental's program as well as what on paper appeared to be a service that favors white Castro men. Gowdley, it should be noted, also is the di-

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## Hispanic parents take lead in teaching kids tolerance, survey finds

by David Fraser

**C**ountering conventional wisdom that Latino culture nurtures homophobia, Hispanic parents top other ethnic groups on tolerance and acceptance of gays and lesbians, a new survey of 1,000 parents reveals.

Commissioned by the Horizons Foundation, the study found a "counterintuitive" degree of openness on both qualities in a group usually stereotyped as highly conservative and often homophobic, said Peter Teague, the foundation's executive director.

The foundation funds efforts on behalf of LGBT issues and seeks to change homophobic attitudes. "We're aggressive on cultural change," said Teague.

One question asked whether increased tolerance and acceptance of gays and lesbians was good or bad. Results by race (other ethnicities were included but samples were small): All parents, 41 percent good to 23 percent bad (+18 percent net good); whites, 42 to 23 percent (+19 percent net good); African Americans, 36 to 26 percent (+10 percent net good); and Hispanics, 41 to 14 percent (+27 percent net good).

The Hispanic data were part of a broader survey on parental attitudes, using both techniques and focus groups. Celinda Lake, president of Lake Snell Perry and Associates, presented her firm's findings for the foundation at the San Francisco Public Library on Monday, May 7.

"We were pleasantly surprised," said Teague, "that nearly two-thirds of parents understood the need to talk with their children about homosexuality and said they would be willing to do so."

"The down side is that two-thirds say they would wait for their child to raise the issue. The parents may hold the key to acceptance and may not be using it."

The issues raised come amid media reports of frequent, if not daily slurs against

queer youth and increased attention from news outlets that some of the young alleged killers involved in school shootings have been bombarded by classmates with terms such as "gay" or "faggot."

"Parents are concerned with high levels of harassment, and how LGBT kids suffer a whole range of impacts," Teague told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "There's depression, homelessness, HIV, suicide, and more. Our concern is focusing on

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Horizons Foundation's Peter Teague

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# Think pink!

## Painting party Sunday for giant triangle

by Cynthia Laird

If you've been to San Francisco over Pride weekend for the last five years, you've likely seen the giant pink triangle that graced Twin Peaks. And it will be back this year, organizers said, and will be even larger than before.

Patrick Carney, Tom Tremblay, and Michael Brown of Friends of the Pink Triangle, are gearing up now for next month's display and invite interested community members to participate in a painting party this Sunday, May 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to prepare the giant tarps for installation.

The pink triangle was once used by the Nazis in concentration camps to identify gay men and lesbian prisoners. This symbol,

which was once used in an attempt to label and shame, has been embraced by the gay community as a symbol of pride. The Friends of the Pink Triangle is a group of friends who wish to bring the message of the pink triangle to the world.

"The pink triangle display is not only a reminder of what the Nazis did, but its display is also intended to initiate discourse concerning hate crimes," Carney explained. "We want to prevent others from experiencing the results of hatred that Matthew Shepard, Allen Schindler, Brandon Teena, and countless others have been subjected to. If we can help prevent additional crimes like the ones committed against them, we will have been successful in our attempt to inform the public."

Next month, organizers will host a christening ceremony on Saturday, June 23, on top of Twin Peaks.

In the meantime, if you're handy with a paint roller — and even if you're not — organizers could use your help this Sunday. ▼

The painting party will take place at Corona Heights Park, which can be reached from either Flint Street (at the top of 16th Street) or States Street. There is a small parking lot that can be accessed from a driveway across the street from 173 States Street. Wear clothes you don't mind being forever stained in luscious pink paint, and if you have a spare roller, please bring it. For more info, call (415) 247-1142.

## City seeks participants for AIDS remembrance ceremony

by Cynthia Laird

Though scaled down from the original idea of draping a huge red ribbon around City Hall, several AIDS service organizations and city officials are planning a "Remembrance and Recommitment" ceremony next month to mark the 20th year of the AIDS epidemic. Interested community members are asked to participate.

Beginning Sunday, June 3, there will be a three-day commemoration to mark the 20th anniversary of the AIDS pandemic. The ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a service of remembrance including a performance by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in the

National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park.

On Monday, June 4, the Names Project will display portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in City Hall, with a formal ceremony at noon, and the reading of the names of those who have died of AIDS. The reading will begin at noon in the City Hall Rotunda and continue through midnight.

On Tuesday, June 5, the reading of the names will continue at 8 a.m. and continue until noon, at which time Mayor Willie Brown will join many long-term survivors, caregivers, and volunteers in acknowledging the 20th anniversary of AIDS and recommit to end the epidemic.

In addition to the AIDS grove,

the Names Project, and the chorus, participating organizations include Project Open Hand, Shanti, the University of California, San Francisco AIDS Health Project, the Conant Foundation, Project Inform, and the Stop AIDS Project.

If you would like to participate in the June 5 ceremony, send your name, address, and phone number to: Mike Shriver, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 475, San Francisco, CA 94102. According to organizers, Shriver will send invitations and instructions on how people will be able to participate. For more information, call Shriver at (415) 554-5967 or e-mail mike\_shriver@ci.sfc.us. ▼

## Support GLBT history on Friday

by Katie Szymanski

You may not always remember your camera or clip those newspaper articles, but thankfully, we have others to do that for us. Where would we be without the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Historical Society of Northern California? Probably in the dark about a lot of things.

Enter "Lightbox," the third annual gala arts fundraiser for the historical society, to be held this

Friday, May 11, from 7-10 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Center, 701 Mission Street, in San Francisco. Your attendance at this benefit will help to ensure that not a single piece of our community is excluded when our story is told.

The event will open with a live performance by the famous Kronos Quartet (doors will be closed from 7:30-8:00 p.m. for this appearance); the quartet, formed in 1973 as a bold experimental voice on the music scene, most recently recorded the soundtrack to *Requiem for a Dream*. Lightbox also

features a silent auction and raffle of photographs, paintings, and other works, donated by over 40 artists and local dealers and collectors. Historic queer images from the late 19th and mid-20th centuries are included in these treasures.

Tickets to Lightbox start at \$55 per person; the price includes one entry in the art raffle. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call (415) 777-5455. A sampling of artwork in the silent auction and raffle can be viewed at [www.GLBThistory.org](http://www.GLBThistory.org). ▼

## Unity Jam for youth on Wednesday

by Katie Szymanski

There's no power like the power of the youth. The familiar chant is embodied at this Wednesday's "Unity Jam" conference sponsored by Health Initiatives for Youth. The daylong series of workshops and panels is on May 16 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel at Market and 8th streets in San Francisco.

While past HIFY conferences have focused on HIV/AIDS, this year's conference will take a more holistic approach, which includes recognition of the fact that attention to all aspects of well-being is

the best defense against HIV transmission.

"Youth in Focus: Mind, Body, and Soul," kicks off at 8 a.m. with breakfast and registration, followed by a 9 a.m. congo drumming ceremony.

The "Mind" portion of the conference begins at 9:55 a.m., with a self defense class, legal education, and mental health workshop among the offerings.

"Body" workshops are from 11 a.m. to noon, featuring violence prevention, safer sex education, body image awareness, and Afro-Haitian dance.

The radio station KMEL will

join the conference for lunch, and "Soul" will take place from 1:20 to 2:20 p.m., featuring harm reduction, queer awareness, and spirituality discussions.

At 2:30 p.m. there will be a youth panel on "youth misrepresentation in the media," and local news outlets are expected to attend.

The conference will close with a hip-hop performance and an open mike for youth commentary.

Unity Jam is free of charge for youth and providers. For more information, contact Yas Ahmed (extension 17) or Howard Kwong (extension 19) at (415) 487-5777. ▼

# Men abused as boys more likely to engage in risky sex, study says

by Ed Walsh

**A** new study by the University of California, San Francisco shows that gay and bisexual men who were sexually abused as children are more likely to engage in unsafe sex and consequently more likely to be infected with HIV.

The 27-page report, published in the April issue of *Child Abuse & Neglect*, found that nearly one quarter (24 percent) of gay and bisexual men who were sexually abused as children were HIV-positive, compared with 14 percent for those who weren't. Researchers noted that one out of five men who have sex with men (MSM) experienced sexual abuse — a rate that is more than double estimates for the general male population.

Researchers found that the men who had been victimized as children had higher rates of "sex under the influence of drugs and alcohol," "one-night stands," and "intimate partner violence."

"These findings clearly indicate that there is a need to consider childhood sexual abuse in developing and delivering HIV prevention interventions," said lead au-

thor Jay Paul, Ph.D., a specialist in the division of medicine of UCSF's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. "Messages that emphasize the avoidance of 'sex under the influence' may not be effective for those men whose use of substances may be a form of coping with the disturbing aftermath of early sexual traumatization. Work can be done to identify prevention strategies that consider the after-effects of childhood sexual abuse."

"In addition, given the extent to which this is a problem among MSM, community services should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate referrals are offered at points where these men may contact mental health, substance abuse, social services, and medical services. The multiple health-related negative consequences of childhood sexual abuse emphasize the need to give this issue appropriate attention," added Paul.

Paul told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there are a number of reasons why people who were sexually abused as children tend to engage in more risky sexual practices.

"Some of the key ways people deal with abuse is to numb the pain and to escape some of the distress by disassociation," Paul

said. "In that state, people might not be fully aware of that sexual encounter, and in some ways give up some of their capacities to control what's going on."

"Some people are dealing with a general sense of powerlessness. In some ways they continue to be in relationships where they are less empowered. If they get connected to partners that are in some ways users, like the people that initially may have abused them, then obviously a situation is set up there for somebody to take advantage of them, and they may feel like they don't deserve any better."

Paul added that gay and bisexual boys could inadvertently put themselves into more jeopardy to be abused by seeking affirmation by adults. The study found that 20.6 percent of MSM were victims of sexual abuse. Other studies have estimated that 5-10 percent of the general male population has been sexually abused as children.

The study analyzed data collected in the Urban Men's Health Study, a telephone sample of 2,881 MSMs in San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The interviews were conducted between November 1996 and February 1998. ▼

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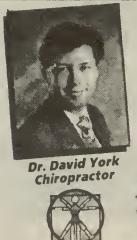
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## Supes announce budget hearings in districts

by Cynthia Laird

Want your voice to be heard regarding the city's budget for 2001-02? The San Francisco Board of Supervisors Finance Committee has announced a series of special meetings throughout May to gather public comments on the budget.

The meeting schedule is:

• District 11, Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, Saturday, May 12, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium at James Denman Middle School, 241 Oneida Street.

• District 7, Supervisor Tony Hall, Wednesday, May 16, at 7

p.m. in the Lane Seniors Annex at the Stonestown YMCA, 3150 20th Avenue.

• District 8, Supervisor Mark Leno, Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street.

• District 1, Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, Saturday, May 19, at 10 a.m., at the Richmond Recreational Center, 251 18th Avenue.

• District 10, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, Saturday, May 19, at noon, at the Southeast Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Avenue.

• District 4, Supervisor Leland Yee, Tuesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m., at the Sunset Recreation Center, 2201 Lawton Street.

• District 9, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Wednesday, May 23, at 7 p.m., at the George Moscone Elementary School, 2576 Harrison Street.

• District 6, Supervisor Chris Daly, Wednesday, May 30, at 5:30 p.m. at the Tenderloin Police Station, 301 Eddy Street.

• District 2, Supervisor Gavin Newsom, Thursday, May 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Newcomer High School, 2340 Jackson Street.

If a quorum of the Finance Committee members are not present, Leno, who is chair of the committee, will hold a town hall meeting, rather than a special meeting, to obtain public input. ▼

## SBA offers training for HIV+ entrepreneurs

by Cynthia Laird

The Small Business Administration and the Positive Resource Center have announced a "How to Start Your Own Small Business" seminar for people who have been out of the workforce due to HIV-related disability and who are now interested in returning to work. The workshop will take place this Tuesday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in SBA's Entrepreneur Center, 455 Market Street, in San Francisco.

"The whole world of people living with HIV is changing so powerfully now, we thought it was important to provide the option of business ownership to people whose situation has evolved to

allow them to go back to working," said Gary Marshall, economic development specialist for SBA.

The daylong class will provide information on marketing, management assistance, basics of bookkeeping, financing, and resources for small businesses. The seminar also will include a discussion focusing on the effects of business ownership on disability benefits.

"Running your own small business certainly is a lot of work, but it can also provide the kind of flexibility and control important to people with complicated medical regimens and fluctuating levels of energy," Marshall added.

"We're working with many people living with HIV/AIDS whose goals for employment are self-employment," said Mark Misrok, em-

ployment services program coordinator for Positive Resource Center.

"Positive Resource Center was already conducting workshops to let their clients consider if starting a small business was right for them," Marshall said. "We wanted to expand on that idea to provide the basic framework of actually getting a company off the ground. And these don't need to be the next Microsofts of the world. The lessons we'll be talking about would apply to plenty of really small businesses, like dog-walking or pet sitting." ▼

Registration for the seminar is free and includes lunch. For more information or to register, call (415) 744-6771.

## Speak out against breast cancer this Sat.

by Katie Szymanski

There's a plethora of pink ribbons at women's events and there are survivors included in the Pride Parade, but fighting breast cancer is long overdue in the LGBT community. If you're really serious about standing up for your sisters, a good start would be attending the town meeting hosted by Breast Cancer Action this Saturday, May 12.

The event coincides with the first day of the 2001 meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the largest annual scientific meeting that focuses on cancer, which will be held in San Francisco this year. BCA challenges those who are tempted to attend the research event to put their energy to actually fighting the disease — by standing up

against environmental toxins and demanding policy changes when it comes to existing research. ASCO, although considered by many to be an important voice, focuses on biotech and pharmaceutical developments and rarely acknowledges environmental links to the disease.

BCA's town meeting, entitled, "No More Silent Spring: Speaking Out About Breast Cancer and the Environment," will take place from 1-5 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin Street, in San Francisco. The theme — like many BCA events — will be direct action with no absence of rage, for author and biologist Sandra Steingraber said, "It's impossible to live safely in a toxic world. We can't make individual lifestyle changes and protect ourselves."

Steingraber will be the keynote

speaker at the event, which also features workshops on legislation, media, and community outreach. Faith Fancher, a news reporter on leave from KTVU Channel 2, will lead a workshop on the media and environmental health.

The town meeting is \$10 per person, plus a \$2 service fee, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Proceeds benefit BCA's efforts to stop cancer where it starts and end the epidemic. One in eight women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime, with an estimated 180,000 new cases diagnosed in the United States each year. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.

For more information on BCA's town meeting this weekend, call (415) 243-9301, (877) 2-STOP-BC, or visit [www.bcacaction.org](http://www.bcacaction.org). ▼



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# Gay senior advocate won't be caught without his leather

by David Fraser

It's 93 degrees out, and William Hollabaugh is walking along the sunny side of the street in full leather.

He shrugs off a question about this choice of clothing when San Francisco is melting: "How come you're not in leather?"

He's carrying his motorcycle helmet and a box, and not even sweating ... he has more important things on his mind.

Like May, proclaimed by Governor Gray Davis as Older Americans Month. The theme is "The Many Faces of Aging," designed to promote inclusivity for seniors.

Hollabaugh is president of the advisory council to San Francisco's Commission on the Aging.

Overall, the council provides many services through about 45 community agencies in San Francisco. A short list includes congregate meals at various sites, home meals, social service referrals, and case management.

Hollabaugh is also an elected member of the California Senior Legislature, which advocates on behalf of seniors.

## Gay senior isolation

His concerns are for all seniors, but he is also focused on the special issues of gay seniors.

"There are a lot of seniors who are older than me," said Hollabaugh, who is 64. "They grew up when being out or outed meant no job. So they learned early to hide their sexuality."

For numerous people of that generation, Hollabaugh said, "Many are still hiding, because they never learned that they could be out."

"For a lot of them, their friends have died, and they don't know how to re-enter society, how to find others. They don't know it's okay to be gay."

As he works to connect the labyrinths of city bureaucracy, commissions, service organizations, nonprofits, Hollabaugh has run into occasional bouts of resistance to his personal leather-centricity that had nothing to do with the weather.

These were not necessarily heterosexual expressions of homophobic discomfort, either.

## No leather, no attendance

"Some gay men over 40 felt I shouldn't wear my leather to formal meetings," Hollabaugh bristled. "What they didn't get was this is part of my personal self-expression."

"So I ignored them and attended in full leather anyway."

But for others in the upper reaches of age, such openness may produce great anxiety. Not everyone mirrors "Radical Faerie" Harry Hay and his partner John Burnside, who are in their 80s and still fighting as activists.

Hollabaugh has a few horror stories about some meal sites where older open gay people found that fellow attendees may have shared age, but weren't will-

ing to share a meal.

"Some people won't sit with them," Hollabaugh said, "and some even walked out."

A more positive event occurred at Laguna Honda Hospital, he added. "It turned out that some of the patients were living closeted. New Leaf hosted gay parties for people in the hospital, and they discovered it was okay to be gay. They felt a kinship, there were other to talk to."

Discovering people with similar sexualities made a huge difference, Hollabaugh said. "The staff found that this sort of gathering and realization could relieve depression among older gays, even to the point where some were taken off their anti-depression meds. ▼



William Hollabaugh

Jake Philomen O'Leary

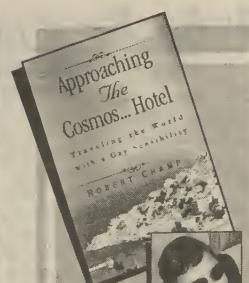
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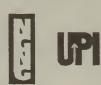
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## Double whammy

The gay and lesbian community took it on the chin twice in a single day this week – the over-the-top *New York Post* told us that “gay parents” were responsible for a private elementary school’s decision not to recognize Mother’s Day and Father’s Day this year; and a researcher with close ties to the right wing released what in our opinion is a flawed study that showed we can turn heterosexual if we want to.

Tuesday morning, the *Post*’s front page screamed “SCHOOL KILLS MOTHER’S DAY – Gay parents force principal to ban cards.” What actually was a column by Andrea Peyer was passed off as a news story by the front page cover headline, which neglected to mention it was an opinion piece. It seems that administrators at the upscale Manhattan private Rodeph Sholom Day School sent home a note with students last week announcing that “after much thought and discussion” the school would not be celebrating Mother’s Day or Father’s Day. The note explained that the school has “many different family makeup” and that the school needs to recognize the emotional well-being of all the children in the school. The letter went on to state that the holidays “served no educational purpose.”

While we remember making cards in school for our mothers and fathers, that was decades ago and times have changed. So it wasn’t the idea of not celebrating the pseudo-holidays that bothered us as much as the gay-baiting in which the *Post* engaged. In fact, it was never substantiated in the story that the policy was enacted because of com-

plaints from gay parents; it contained rumor and anonymous quotes from people identified as parents of the school who were upset about the change.

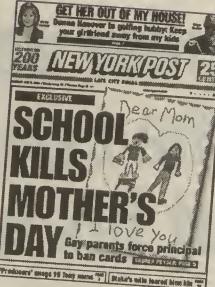
“It’s what we’ve come to expect from the *New York Post*,” Dan Wilson, with the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, told us. “We view this story as an attempt to scapegoat gay parents.”

Wilson went on to say that the column “left out key details,” and agreed with school officials that a Hallmark card holiday such as Mother’s Day “really has no educational value.”

“Schools are starting to look at some of these holidays and being more sensitive to alternative families and we applaud that,” he added, pointing out – as did officials at the school – that different types of families have long been part of society. There are kids raised by single parents – gay and straight – as well as kids who are raised by extended family members or others.

Regarding the so-called study about gays and their ability to become straight through prayer, therapy, and mentoring relationships, gay activists quickly pounced on the affiliations of the study’s author, Dr. Robert L. Spitzer, who ironically led the 1973 task force responsible for removing homosexuality from the official list of mental disorders contained in the American Psychiatric Association’s diagnostic manual.

Spitzer said his study was based on 45-



minute interviews with 143 men and 57 women who had sought help to change their sexual orientation (read: “ex-gay” ministries). He conceded that the subjects in his study were “unusually religious” and were not necessarily representative of most gays and lesbians in the U.S.

The so-called ‘study’ conducted by Robert Spitzer is snake oil packaged as science,” said Tim McFeeley, political director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. “Of the 200 people interviewed by Spitzer, 43 percent were referred to him by ex-gay ministries. Another 23 percent were referred to him by the anti-gay National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality. To say the very least, the data was tainted and biased.”

Buried in the story about Spitzer’s study – being released at the APA’s annual meeting in New Orleans – was the mention of another study by Drs. Ariel Shidlo and Michael Schroeder. They found that the vast majority of subjects in their project, who were recruited through the Internet and direct mailings to groups advocating reparative therapy, reported failure in their efforts to change through so-called conversion therapies. Neither study has been published or submitted to professional review.

The best response to these two instances of scapegoating gays: read between the lines of the sensational *Post* column because we know families are changing, and don’t bother to waste your time, emotional energy, or money on “reparative” therapy. ▼

## Opting out is not an option

by Al Kielwasser

A coalition of conservative organizations, both national and local, has launched a sustained attack on educational equity in California. Dubbed the “California Student Exemption Project,” these groups are attempting to undermine legislation passed last year (AB1785, AB537, and AB1931) that is intended to promote diversity and combat bigotry in the state’s public schools.

Specifically, this legislation calls for teaching fair and accurate information about sexual orientation and taking appropriate steps to combat hate violence in school. Not surprisingly, homophobic groups have been opposed to this effort from the start.

In a recent letter to her flock, the Eagle Forum’s Phyllis Schlafly complained that “AB1785 will promote the acceptance of homosexuality and bisexuality by shaping the attitudes of school children and empowering gay organizations to go into the schools;” and that “AB1931 will fund subjective programs that can easily be used by gay groups to teach children to approve of behavior that many parents consider objectionable.”

Most recently, groups like the Eagle Forum have begun their statewide “opt-out” campaign – which would effectively pull students out of class any time homosexuality is mentioned. At the heart of this new campaign is an all-purpose form, intended for use by disgruntled – and homophobic – parents.

Addressed to the local “school board members, superintendent, principal, teachers and agents,” parents need only fill in the name of their school district on this generic form. Widely distributed throughout the state, the opt-out form is also available online at various Web sites, including those of the Life Legal Defense Foundation and Capitol Resource.

Other organizations touting the form are Campaign for California Families, Pro-family Law Center, the United States Justice Foundation and the Pacific Justice Institute.

In the Bay Area, *San Francisco Faith* – a conservative Catholic newspaper – has been giving front page spreads to the opt-out effort. The paper hails the campaign as a way

for parents “to excuse their children from activities or curriculum that treats homosexuality as a normal human condition.”

Citing several sections of the state’s education code, the new opt-out form admonishes local schools “not to teach, instruct, advise, counsel, discuss, test, question, examine, survey or in any way provide information, data or images to my child(ren) concerning: sex education, human sexuality, AIDS, HIV, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual preference, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender or transsexual issues, or any alternatives to monogamous heterosexual marriage, without my express written permission on an incident-by-incident basis.”

Covering everything from textbooks to Internet programs, the form further demands that this restriction be applied not only to teachers, but all school staff as well as guest speakers.

The opt-out form relies on a part of the California Education Code (Section 51240) that currently states: “Whenever any part of the instruction in health, family life education, and sex education conflicts with the religious training and beliefs of the parent or guardian of any pupil, the pupil, on written request of the parent or guardian, shall be excused from the part of the training which conflicts with such religious training and beliefs.”

Unfortunately, anti-gay groups have been successful at defining every and any reference to homosexuality as a matter of “sex education.” Simply citing the historic contributions of lesbian or gay citizens would, they argue, constitute a discussion of “human sexuality.”

As used by homophobes, therefore, the opt-out provisions of California’s education code represent a serious loophole in state law. After all, parents whose religious beliefs told them that the Earth was flat would not be allowed to opt their children out of geography class.

Scott Lively, president of the Sacramento-based Pro-Family Law Center, believes the opt-out campaign will be successful across the state, curtailing efforts to teach anything about homosexuality. “When we

have brought the education code up to school districts in the past, they have always complied,” Lively gloats. “The school boards are always concerned with compliance and they will even go overboard at times to comply with the law.”

In fact, groups like Lively’s appear to be fishing for a lawsuit, and are simply waiting for a school to reject one of the opt-out forms. Brad Dacus, president of the Pacific Justice Institute, has specifically asked parents to notify his organization of any such rejections.

Ironically (and horribly) the “California Student Exemption Project” would excuse those students most in need of fair and accurate information about homosexuality: the children of homophobes, who are being taught by their parents to hate what they do not understand, and – even more sad – the gay children of those same parents, who are being taught to hate themselves.

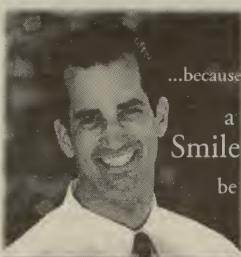
Regardless of the lofty rhetoric of “parental rights” and “religious beliefs,” these children should not be left at risk. Despite their parents’ ignorance, they – above all – have a right to know the truth. ▼

## Guest Opinion

State and local school officials should be encouraged to actively resist the “California Student Exemption Project.” Along with state legislators, they should work to close the current opt-out provisions of the education code that have been used to promote homophobia. Contact: Delaine Eastin, Superintendent, California Department of Education, 721 Capitol Mall, Sacramento CA, 95814, phone (916) 657-2451, e-mail [www.cde.ca.gov/whitecde.html](http://www.cde.ca.gov/whitecde.html); Jill Wynd, president, San Francisco Board of Education, 555 Franklin Street, Room 106, San Francisco, CA 94102, phone (415) 241-6492, fax: 415-241-6429, e-mail [jwynd@muse.sfsu.edu](mailto:jwynd@muse.sfsu.edu).

Al Kielwasser has published several studies on lesbian/gay issues in education, and is the editor of *Gay People, Sex and the Media* (The Haworth Press).





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#### Mailstrom

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about women's reproductive freedom, re-instating the gag rule against international population planning organizations which present abortion information as one alternative. Similarly our allies in the civil rights community fought hard against confirming this same attorney general who opposed historic African American judicial appointments.

Even though, with the exception of the gag rule, most of my first 100 days Bush complaints concern process and appointment and not overtly policy, they are each dangerous steps backward. Clearly Bush knows that the process (for example in considering federal judges) or the appointees (like Ashcroft) control future policy direction. For political appointees, this harm may be limited to four years if we all work hard. Federal judges, however, have lifetime appointments and the ability to determine the wide range of legal challenges for LGBT rights which will be brought in the next 40 to 50 years - our lifetimes. Repeat that thought if you need motivation.

Journalists and op-ed writers in the straight press have most recently described Bush the senior as a president who campaigned conservative and then enraged conservatives by governing moderately, and his son as just the opposite. Just as in the campaign, Bush the junior is fronting for quiet dangerous allies like Republican congressional leaders Tom DeLay and Trent Lott. They are 100 percent satisfied with Bush's first 100 days. That alone should bring great fear to the Log Cabin Republicans, the HRC, and to all of us.

Those same straight journalists and writers attack the Democratic Party's complacency and lack of message in the first 100 days. Those of us in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movement should even more vigorously refuse to tolerate complacency and lack of fight in ourselves and from our leadership institutions.

Charlie Spiegel, Board President  
All Our Families Coalition  
San Francisco

#### An unintended consequence

I'm inclined to agree with Officer Jane Warner that the pay toilet at Market and Castro should be removed ("Suspected OD in Castro pay toilet prompts calls for its closure," May 3).

James "Alex" Ramaley's death is an example of how well-intended things such as fully enclosed sidewalk restroom stalls can escalate a drug addict's helplessness. The fact that drug addicts aren't respected should not be used to minimize that tragedy. However, the impact which is within most people's frames of reference affects the Castro and Market area in general.

I spend some of my free time in the Castro, partly because it is a place where I like to think I am safe from the crass treatment which women receive from some men in other parts of the city. However, I have had minor harassment problems with people who loiter near the toilet. It has the potential for making people feel unsafe in the neighborhood, and maybe we should be questioning how safe we really are.

I no longer use that toilet myself, even if the coast looks clear. I gave up after meeting someone near the doorway as I was leaving. That person was obnoxious rather than threatening, but it was a reminder of what could happen if I'm not careful.

There may be a valid argument in favor of keeping the toilet, and a public debate should be held before any decision is made. However, the article suggests that Officer Warner's concerns about the toilet are being ignored. It doesn't encourage public optimism when something this serious is neglected, but maybe that's what we have to expect.

Ann Mason  
San Francisco

#### Valuable public service?

As a nearby resident, I fully support the public toilet placed in the Castro by the venerable French company J.C. Decaux. This valuable public service provides not only a public restroom, but much-needed revenue to the people of France. This revenue is returned to San Francisco through an increase in French tourists, who can then ride the F line from Fisherman's Wharf to the Castro District, and for only 25 cents, shoot-up in the J.C. Decaux toilet at Castro and Market.

Neal Lochrie  
San Francisco

#### Don't use neighborhood as a toilet

This is a quick note asking guys in the Castro to stop pissing on the sidewalks. Either you have been in a bar or restaurant and could have used the restroom there, or you are near a friend's home or your own place and could have used the bathroom there. In a worst case scenario, you could spend the 25 cents it costs to use the J.C. Decaux public restroom at Castro and Market.

I live on 17th at the corner of Hartford. I see people frequently pissing on the sidewalk on the Hartford

Street side of my building. Recently, I actually saw someone pissing on the front door of a neighbor's apartment building on 17th Street not 100 feet from the public restroom I mentioned.

These people don't look homeless or indigent. They look like the average Castro residents, except for the fact they are using my neighborhood for a toilet.

Pissing is natural and can even be fun with a friend. However, it can also make the area near my apartment building smell terrible.

So, please, stop pissing on the sidewalk. Don't be so lazy. Go to a public restroom or go home and do it.

Steven Kyle Weller  
San Francisco

#### Theories are right on

Regarding the April 26 Lesbian Notions ("MTFs understand being 'real' women"), wow, what a birthday omen! Paula Martinac's philosophy and theories are right on and well referenced. I grabbed my phone and told everyone I know to get a copy; mostly because this has been my thought for quite (too many) years now. Kudos.

Charlie Skiffington, Services Coordinator  
San Francisco Dept. of Public Health  
Transgender Providers' Coalition

#### Hats off to ALRP

I was recently involved in a very stressful two-year dispute with an insurance company which was just successfully resolved. I sought help from the AIDS Legal Referral Panel and was accepted as a client. The volunteer lawyer who handled my case met with me often (in the middle of his busy day) and was committed to seeing this thing through to the end. At one point it appeared that all was lost. His expertise and the agency's efforts sustained me through a terrible ordeal. I would like to ask members of our community who make charitable contributions to please consider this very important group. Thank you.

Joseph R. Amaro  
San Francisco

#### Tenants group interest hurts gays

On the issue of tenancies-in-common, the B.A.R. could not be more wrong!

As a lawyer who has dealt with tenants issues, as well as gay/lesbian rights, I can assure you that the only way gay and lesbian couples can jointly own property is through TICs. Without it, the hassles to joint ownership are so burdensome and there would be such huge costs and hassles, that most couples simply could not afford to own. If TIC is removed, most gay and lesbian couples would be reduced to a perpetual renters-class, something that is no doubt in the tenant's union's interest!

As the newspaper supposedly representing the interest of the gay community, why does the B.A.R. continually take the side of the tenant's union, especially on this issue where their interest hurts gays and lesbians? At what point will the B.A.R. responsibly air and represent the interest of gays and lesbians it serves, and sound alarm bells of the great danger anti-TIC laws hold for us all?

Christopher M. Adams  
San Francisco

#### Mae West remembered

Bay Area critics who have praised *Dirty Blonde*, now at Theatre On The Square, have forgotten Mae West's film persona (if they ever knew it), probably never saw her on stage, and are ill-informed about her personal life.

Wigged and costumed, Claudia Shear does manage to capture some of West's look, but she projects little of the pizzazz which the inimitable star displayed when I saw her on stage in a 1948 Broadway revival of *Diamond Lil*. None of Shear's line readings have West's celebrated innuendo.

A friend of mine toured with West in her production of *Catherine Was Great*. "She was nothing like the public perception of her," my friend, Mary, said. "She didn't drink smoke, go to clubs or use any kind of off-color language. She was a shrewd businesswoman, but was entirely ladylike in her personal behavior. She was devoted to her mother and was, in fact, rather religious."

*Dirty Blonde* commits some odd sins of omission. Jim Tully, the fight promoter, whom many believe was the love of her life, isn't even mentioned in the text. The female impersonator Ray Bourbon, a lifelong confidant and whom I saw with her in *Diamond Lil*, also gets no notice.

Further, in her Las Vegas act with the musclemen, she didn't stumble and totter about the stage as Shear does in her play. Charles Higham, the celebrity biographer now turned playwright (and whose play on Marlene Dietrich has just opened off-Broadway) was a frequent guest at Mae West's soirees. "She was never like Shear portrays her," Higham told me. "Even in her old age she never stood or sat in that stooped-over fashion."

Dean Goodman  
San Francisco

# City attorney race draws interest

by Wayne Friday

**C**ity Attorney Louise Renne's announcement that she would not run for re-election this November — after having served in the job for 15 years — has suddenly turned what promised to be a lackluster city election into a spirited guessing game of numerous lawyers who have quickly expressed interest in taking the city's top legal post.

Renne, appointed to the position in 1986 by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein, has not yet endorsed a candidate to succeed her but rumors were rampant this week that she was trying to interest someone — anyone, apparently — from within her office to enter the race.

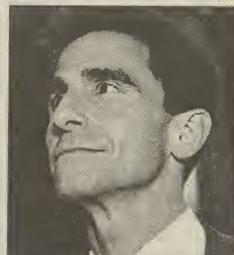
Meanwhile, phones have been ringing since Renne's surprise announcement, and as this goes to press, those reportedly high on the list of possible candidates are: James Lazarus, a former deputy city attorney, currently the statewide director for U.S. Senator Feinstein; Police Commissioner Dennis Herrera (who is also a former deputy city attorney); slow-growth attorney Steve Williams; former Supervisor Annemarie Connroy; attorney Neil Eisenberg; and current Deputy City Attorneys Jonathan Holtzman, Lori Giorgi, and Dennis Aftergut.

Of the above-mentioned possible candidates, Connroy carries the disadvantage of being a prominent Republican in a city that doesn't elect Republicans (she also failed to get re-elected to her supervisor position); Eisenberg lost to Renne in 1993, though he won 37 percent of the vote; Lazarus lost a citywide race for supervisor a few years back despite spending a ton of money; Holtzman reportedly has trouble with organized labor; Williams has the endorsement of several liberal supervisors, but is generally unknown and some question whether he can raise the money to wage a credible campaign; Aftergut is popular, well-known, and highly qualified, but is said to be not all that interested in the race; Giorgi is a bright deputy city attorney but also generally unknown politically; and Herrera is a popular, well-liked attorney with a lot of political contacts and few, if any, political enemies who is considered by some to be well-positioned if he gets into the race quickly.

Some of these possible candidates will almost surely fall by the political wayside long before the early August filing deadline, however, and those who actually do enter have until late August to remove their names from the November ballot if they wish. If no candidate receives a majority of votes in the November 6 election, there will be a runoff election between the top two vote-getters on December 11.

The only other office up for election in November is city treasurer — incumbent Susan Leal will be a candidate for another term — and rumors swirled in City Hall this week that former mayoral candidate Clint Reilly was considering entering the race against her. Reilly did not return phone calls from the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The November 6 election also will determine a number of ballot and bond measures, including a measure that would create a municipal utility district for the city.



Supervisor Mark Leno

name. "Do not use the phrasing, 'no higher calling than public service,' and avoid using the word 'proud,'" God being a higher calling and pride being a sin, according to the Christian right A.G.

Also from Washington comes whispers that former New Jersey Governor **Christie Whitman**, the pro-choice, pro-gay, moderate director of the Environmental Protection Agency, for whom the White House has twice recently had to retract comments, might just very well be on the Bush/GOP "endangered list" soon.

Politicians of both parties are playing the usual political tricks with redistricting. Armed with the latest census counts, politicos in control of state legislatures are not being subtle while screwing each other. In Virginia, the majority state Republican legislators are tossing 13 of their Democratic colleagues into new state districts where they'll have to run against each other. In Indiana, which is losing a U.S. House seat, the Democratic-controlled state Legislature moved quickly to ensure that two Republican incumbents got thrown together in one of the newly-designed House seats, while, of course, making sure Democratic incumbents were protected.

In other national politics, Georgia Republicans last week elected the notoriously anti-gay former Christian Coalition head **Ralph Reed** as the new state party chair. Reed immediately proclaimed that his conservative ideals "will make history and take our citizens to a higher and better place." (Suppose Reed has been talking with John Ashcroft?) New Jersey Democrats were breathing a lot easier this week after learning that multimillionaire **Steve Forbes** has ruled out running against incumbent U.S. Senator **Robert Torricelli** this year. And, rumors persist out of Florida that Governor **Jeb Bush**, reportedly experiencing "family troubles," is seriously considering not running for re-election next year. Florida's highly popular former Representative **Pete Peterson** (Clinton's ambassador to Vietnam) will be the Democratic nominee for governor in Florida next year and even if Bush does run, political analysts in both parties say that Florida joins the list of other major states like New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Michigan, with current Republican governors who are all expected to face strong Democratic challengers in 2002.

From the "things-we-didn't-need-to-know" department: The two young assistant district attorneys, **Kimberly Guilfoyle** and **James Hammer**, chosen by District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** to prosecute the infamous dog mauling case, giving interviews to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, have Guilfoyle telling us that her "mentor," socialite **Ann Getty** "has tremendous insight and comes up with all kinds of great ideas in the dog case" for her. Meanwhile, Hammer, a gay Jesuit, says he wants to make it clear that "I never want the impression that I hold myself out as a saint." Well, okay.

Speaking of which, back in Washington, D.C., Attorney General **John Ashcroft** reportedly holds daily prayer sessions in his office where he suggests that staffers make correspondence more pious. *Newsweek* magazine recently obtained an inner-office memo, signed by Ashcroft, that offers aides seven "stylistic preferences" for letters bearing Ashcroft's

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# Who were Harmodios and Aristogeiton?

by Rawley Grau

Most schools teach that democratic government began in ancient Greece, but they fail to mention that, for the Greeks themselves, democracy was symbolized in the image of two male lovers. Their names were Harmodios and Aristogeiton, and for centuries they were honored as the founders of equality under the law. But their actions seem to have been intended primarily to protect their relationship, not to create a new form of government.

Before the mid-sixth century B.C.E., the city-state of Athens had been ruled by a coalition of prominent families. But in 546, a tyrant usurped power and established a dictatorship. He was succeeded in 528 by his eldest son, Hippias. His second son, Hipparchos, apparently shared power, serving as a kind of minister of culture and overseeing the artistic and athletic festivals that were a hallmark of Athenian life. At some

and any attempt to rape or abduct him would have caused an uproar.

Instead, when Hipparchos realized he didn't stand a chance with Harmodios, he took out his disappointment on the young man's family. He invited Harmodios's younger sister to take part in a ceremonial procession, then, at the last minute, sent her home, saying she was unworthy of the honor. The implication was that she was not a virgin. This insult only compounded Harmodios and Aristogeiton's grievances against Hipparchos.

The two lovers conspired with others to kill both Hippias and Hipparchos at the opening festival of the Great Panathenaic Games in 514. But their plans went awry when, on the morning of the festival, they saw one of their fellow conspirators talking with Hippias. Alarmed that their plot was about to be exposed, the lovers rushed over to

individualized portraits created in Greece. So important were the statues of Harmodios and Aristogeiton that Xerxes carried them off to Persia when he invaded Athens in 480 B.C.E., undoubtedly in an attempt to demoralize the Athenians. Three years later, however, new statues of the lovers were erected in the Agora.

In 331 B.C.E., Alexander the Great conquered Persia, and he or his successor sent the original statues back to Athens. Both pairs of bronzes stood in the Agora for several hundred years.

Although all four statues are now lost to us, a Roman copy in marble exists of the replacement pair. It is quite dramatic: the two men, both naked and muscular, are striding forward and about to strike, the beardless Harmodios with his sword raised above his head, the older Aristogeiton, bearded, ready to plunge his dagger into Hipparchos's side. These poses, replicated on vases and coins and imitated in countless other sculptures, quickly became emblematic of heroism.

Despite Thucydides's attempt to establish the facts, the Athenians persisted in their devotion to the ill-fated lovers. One drinking song, which dates from the fifth century B.C.E. expresses this civic feeling especially well:

"Fame shall be yours forever throughout the earth, / Dearest Harmodios and Aristogeiton, / Because you slew the tyrant / And made Athens a place of equality under the law." ▶

**For the Greeks themselves, democracy was symbolized in the image of two male lovers.**

point, Hipparchos became enamored of a young man named Harmodios.

The historian Thucydides, writing a century later, describes the situation as follows: "Harmodios was then a most beautiful young man in the flower of his youth, and was loved and possessed by Aristogeiton, a citizen who belonged to the middle class. Harmodios was approached, though without success, by Hipparchos." Although Harmodios rejected Hipparchos's advances, Aristogeiton, "being in love as he was, was greatly upset."

Male couples were accepted as a natural part of society in ancient Greece, though, unlike gay couples in America, a marked age difference was expected in the relationship, with the passive partner being an adolescent boy or youth. As Thucydides describes him, Harmodios was most likely between 18 and 20; Aristogeiton would have been older, probably in his 30s or early 40s.

The tyrant's brother continued to pursue Harmodios, who continued to rebuff him. Thucydides suggests that Aristogeiton "was afraid that Hipparchos, with all his power, might take Harmodios by force," but such an action seems unlikely. The young man came from a prominent family

Hipparchos and slew him with daggers. Harmodios was killed instantly by Hipparchos's bodyguard, but in the confusion Aristogeiton managed to escape. Soon, however, he was found and tortured to death.

The tyrant Hippias remained in power another four years, during which time his rule became extremely oppressive. In 510, he was overthrown, and two years later, an innovative system of representative government was established that today we recognize as an early form of democracy.

Aristogeiton and Harmodios did not, in fact, slay the tyrant; they killed his brother. And they did so not from political motives – at least not primarily – but "under the impulse of rage caused, in the one case, by love and in the other by wounded pride," as Thucydides points out. Nevertheless, soon after the tyrant fled Athens, a cult grew around Harmodios and Aristogeiton, honoring them as heroes and tyrant-slayers – and the founders of democracy.

Less than 10 years after their deaths, bronze statues of the lovers were erected in the Agora, the city's main square. No other mortals had received such a tribute, and art historians believe that these statues were among the first

Rawley Grau can be reached at [GayNestor@aol.com](mailto:GayNestor@aol.com).

## Suggested reading

Dover, K.J., 1978. *Greek Homosexuality*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Renault, Mary, 1978. *The Praise Singer*. New York: Pantheon Books. This novel includes a vivid (albeit fictionalized) retelling of the story of Harmodios and Aristogeiton.

Spivey, Nigel, 1996. *Understanding Greek Sculpture: Ancient Meanings, Modern Readings*. New York: Thames and Hudson.

Taylor, Michael W., 1991. *The Tyrant Slayers: The Heroic Image in Fifth-Century B.C. Athenian Art and Politics*. 2nd edition. Salem, N.H.: Ayer Co. Publishers.

## First case of sexually transmitted typhoid

by Liz Highleyman

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported for the first time that typhoid fever can be transmitted sexually. The announcement was made at a sexually transmitted disease conference in Atlanta. CDC officials urged all people with typhoid to avoid sexual contact until they are successfully treated and clear of

the disease.

Typhoid fever is caused by a type of salmonella bacteria, and is usually contracted by consuming food or water contaminated with fecal material. The disease is rare in the U.S., but common in some developing countries. Symptoms include fever, abdominal cramps, headache, and sometimes a skin rash. Typhoid can be treated with antibiotics, although some people remain carriers even after treatment. Untreated typhoid may be fatal.

In the case reported in April, a Cincinnati man who contracted typhoid during a visit to Puerto Rico transmitted the disease to seven other men, most likely through oral-anal contact, according to CDC epidemiologist Megan Reller. Reportedly none of the men shared food or drink.

A vaccine for typhoid fever is available, and is often recommended for those traveling to countries where the disease is widespread. ▶

# Being openly gay isn't good enough

by Paula Martinac

What do you get when you cross an ardent anti-abortion activist with the national AIDS czar? Answer: Scott Evertz, a former fundraiser for Wisconsin Right to Life who was recently named head of the Office of National AIDS Policy. But here's a riddle that's not so easy to answer. What does it mean when the most influential lesbian and gay political groups, including the one that prides itself on upholding our movement's progressive politics, fail to criticize Evertz's appointment, simply because he's openly gay?

It means that our movement's come to a scary place where principles don't matter and being openly gay is good enough. And when a lesbian or gay man achieves the magical "first openly gay (fill in the blank)" status, it's reason to break out the confetti and champagne.

Last month, Evertz got to claim his place in all those lists of lesbian and gay "firsts" by becoming the first openly gay person ever appointed to a Republican administration. There's no question that his appointment is historic. It would also be historic if, say, Kay Bailey Hutchison, the conservative Republican senator from Texas, became the first woman president. But I wouldn't cheer that "first" either, and I doubt many feminist organizations would.

## Lesbian Notions

however, deeply disturbs me. Only last January Toledo penned a scathing editorial that ran in many gay publications denouncing the nomination of Wisconsin's Governor Tommy Thompson for secretary of Health and Human Services. It was an unpopular, gutsy move, since Thompson is widely recognized as an advocate for AIDS funding. Although Toledo praised him for that, she slammed him for signing "some of the most misogynist legislation in the country, including the most restrictive anti-abortion legislation implemented since the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* recognized abortion as a constitutional right."

Toledo further fumed over the "uncritical analysis" she had read about Thompson in the lesbian and gay press. "The GLBT community," she went on passionately, "ought to consider issues like reproductive health ... a central part of our concerns."

I couldn't agree more. And that's why we need to be critical of Evertz's appointment. At the heart of the fight to protect women's re-

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Christine Smith

to life" — playing such a pivotal role in both the AIDS and lesbian and gay movements. The head of the White House AIDS office should be able to grasp a fundamental concept: We must all have the right to control our bodies and our health. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at [LNCcolumn@aol.com](mailto:LNCcolumn@aol.com).

## All we hear from our top two national lesbian and gay organizations is applause.

It's worrisome, then, that in the wake of Evertz's appointment all we hear from our top two national lesbian and gay organizations is applause. The Human Rights Campaign headlined its press release, "HRC Praises Administration for Naming Evertz to Top AIDS Post." Amazingly, HRC went so far as to call the move "a major sign the administration is fully committed to fighting HIV/AIDS on a national and global scale," even though the Bush budget proposal does next to nothing to increase funding for AIDS programs.

The press statement from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was much less effusive than HRC's but still laudatory, noting more than once the "first" aspect of Evertz's new job. The appointment, Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo said, "is an historic, positive step," but to her credit she also warned about serious problems with Bush's budget allowances for AIDS.

I wasn't surprised by HRC's reaction to the Evertz appointment. Ever since the group endorsed anti-choice Al D'Amato over pro-choice Chuck Schumer in the 1998 U.S. Senate race to represent New York, nothing out of its press office would shock me — except, perhaps, the news that the organization is adding the word "gay" to its name. NGLTF's lack of conviction,

productive rights are the issues of privacy and sexual freedom, both of which are fundamental to lesbian and gay rights. There was a time, 10 or 15 years ago, when a lot of gay men didn't understand why they should support a woman's right to an abortion. They questioned why an issue that didn't have an obvious bearing on the gay community should be of concern to our movement.

It took hard work from progressive lesbians and gay men to convince the community of the issue's importance, and now most of our organizations are officially pro-choice. In a documentary on abortion called *Leona's Sister, Gerri*, there's an unforgettable image that poignantly illustrates the shift that took place in our movement's stand on abortion. In one scene, gay men attend an abortion-rights rally wearing ACT UP T-shirts and carrying placards that bear a chilling photograph — a woman who bled to death from a botched illegal abortion.

I support the right of individuals like Evertz to oppose abortion for religious or personal reasons. I'm a lapsed Catholic with close family members who disagree with me on the issue of choice. But I object to Evertz — who raised money to assist Wisconsin Right to Life in its mission of "defeating laws that threaten the right

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# Begging in public

by Jane Warner

**I** 00 block of Clinton Park, April 27, 11:10 p.m.: A woman called police after her ex-girlfriend stood outside her apartment screaming that she was going to break her windows. The ex, who had apparently been drinking, took off one of her shoes and threw it up at the building. The shoe bounced off a window pane and landed back on the ground without doing any damage. Frustrated, the woman threatened

to go home and throw the remaining possessions the woman still had at her house out onto the roadway. Responding police found the woman nearby and asked her if she was the one that had thrown a shoe at a window. The woman told the officers, "I don't want to talk to you," and started to walk away. Officers quickly took the 39-year-old woman into custody and booked her for public intoxication.

#### Paramedics charged

*Market and 18th, April 27, 1:35 a.m.* Police responded to a report



of a drunk man fighting with an ambulance crew at the intersection of 18th and Market. The ambulance was originally summoned to check on the well-being of a driver slumped over the wheel of a vehicle. When they arrived, paramedics saw a man walking in the middle of the street talking to himself. Suddenly, the man charged one of the paramedics and tackled him to the ground. Medics radioed for help and held him down in the middle of Market Street until police arrived. The man told paramedics he was diabetic, and his blood sugar

level tested below normal. Assault charges were dropped after a doctor confirmed that his medical condition could have been the reason for his irrational behavior.

#### Loaded weapon

*Safeway, 2020 Market, April 25, 4:15 p.m.* A Safeway security officer watched a man as he stashed four bottles of champagne under his coat and quickly exited the store. The thief ran into the parking lot with the officer in close pursuit. Suddenly, the culprit turned and threw one of the bottles at the guard, hitting him in the leg. The

champagne bottle shattered upon impact, cutting the security guard's knee. The security officer called for help over his radio and several other guards joined in the pursuit. The assailant turned on them as well, throwing another champagne bottle. The pursuing guards ducked the flying bottle and tackled the assailant as he tried to cross Market Street. The 42-year-old man was taken to Mission Station by responding police and booked for two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, petty theft, and two outstanding criminal warrants.

#### Toke & poke

*Kinko's parking lot, 1975 Market Street, April 27, 2:30 p.m.* Police responded to a report of a man waving a sword. When officers arrived, they found the man sitting inside an older Nissan. On the center console of the car was a three foot long Samurai sword. A marijuana bong was discovered in the back seat. Officers ordered the man out of the car and placed him in handcuffs. The man explained he was going to fencing class. Upon closer examination, the sword was found to be a fencing foil with a blunt edge. The 35-year-old man was admonished for displaying the foil in public and given a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia. ▼

# Smith helping with book on mauling case

by Ed Walsh

**T**here's no sign of any letup in the intense media scrutiny surrounding the fatal dog mauling of Diane Whipple.

This week, Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, announced she is cooperating with the writer of a book on the case. The book will be called *Death of an Angel*.

"The book is about Diane and what happened so far and will probably take us up to the trial," Smith told reporters outside the scheduled arraignment for the caretakers of the dogs on Wednesday, May 9.

Smith said she somewhat reluctantly agreed to cooperate on the book when she was approached by author Joe Harrington.

"The book was going to be written with or without my involvement," said Smith. "When he

told me he was going to be writing a book I did feel, boy, it's a little early for all of this. But I'd rather be involved in telling my story and our story than not being involved and have somebody try to guess from the outside."

Although Harrington has almost completed his manuscript for the book, he told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he may hold off on its publication to avoid jeopardizing the case with more pretrial publicity. Harrington, who has authored four other true-crime books, said he will take about two-thirds of what he normally gets paid and donate the bulk of the proceeds from the book to the Diane Alexis Whipple Foundation.

Meanwhile, the arraignment was delayed from Wednesday morning until Wednesday afternoon, past press time, because defense attorneys said Marjorie Knoller was ill. Knoller's husband,

Robert Noel, was present but attorneys agreed to arraign both in the afternoon. Noel is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Knoller, who was with the dogs during the January 26 attack, is being charged with second-degree murder. Both also face charges of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. They are being held in jail on a combined bail of \$3 million.

The Wednesday morning proceeding was attended by 14 first and second graders from the Freeman School, a private elementary school where District Attorney Terence Hallinan's daughter attends. Hallinan's daughter was among the group. Several courtroom observers told the *B.A.R.* they were surprised to see the students in court because they didn't think the proceedings of a criminal court were appropriate for small children. ▼

# Chicago Cubs baseball pitcher fined for offensive comments about Giants fans

by Ed Walsh

**B**ay Area charities could soon be cashing in on the loose lips of Chicago Cubs pitcher Julian Tavarez.

On Saturday, April 28, when asked after a game at Pacific Bell Park about being booted by San Francisco fans, Tavarez said: "Why should I care about the fans? They're a bunch of assholes and faggots here."

The Cubs quickly decried the comments, fined Tavarez, and ordered him to attend sensitivity training.

The Cubs' director of media relations, Sharon Pannozzo, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the team is not disclosing the amount of the fine but said it is "five figures." Pannozzo said it will be dis-

tributed to charities by both the Cubs and the San Francisco Giants. Pannozzo wouldn't say what percentage of the fine will be handed out by the Cubs and what percentage will be distributed by the Giants. She added that her team hasn't made any decisions yet over which charities or the types of charities would benefit.

"The Cubs have a grant program that charities can apply to," she said.

The Giants' vice president of public affairs, Staci Slaughter, told the *B.A.R.* that the Giants haven't yet been contacted by the Cubs about the fine. She said she didn't know the amount of the fine nor what percentage the Giants would get but Slaughter added that in light of Tavarez's comments, it would be appropriate to give some of the money to organizations

that fight hate crimes.

In a brief statement to reporters, Tavarez apologized for his remarks a day after he made them.

"I want to apologize to the city," he said. "I want to tell them how sorry I am for what I say. I'm an emotional guy and I don't mean what I say. I'm really sorry for what I said yesterday. I should never have said those things. I let my emotions get in the way, and I'm totally sorry. I am sorry. I am very sorry."

Tavarez, who made the remarks about San Francisco fans after losing a game 5-0, has a reputation for letting his emotions get the better of him. He began serving a five-game suspension on April 29 for a fight with Giants third baseman Russ Davis during spring training. Tavarez played for the Giants for three seasons beginning in 1997. ▼

# Texas Senate passes hate crimes bill

United Press International

The Texas Senate on Monday, May 7 approved a House-passed bill named after dragging victim James Byrd Jr. that would toughen the state's hate crimes law and send a message that Texas "is not a safe haven for hate." The bill includes sexual preference in its list of protected groups.

A similar bill died two years ago in a Senate committee because supporters said then-Governor George W. Bush would not support it and the failure of the measure during Bush's watch became an issue during his campaign for the White House last year.

On Monday, state Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston), was able to muster the necessary two-thirds vote to bring the measure to the floor for debate and then successfully beat back an amendment that would have stripped specific hate victim language from the bill. The bill passed 20-10 in the Republican-controlled, 31-member Senate, with several prominent GOP members voting with Democrats.

The bill passed the House two weeks ago, but it must return there for approval of minor Senate amendments. If the House approves the Senate changes, the measure will go to Republican Governor Rick Perry, who has taken a watch and wait position.

The governor has said he will make a decision when and if the final legislation reaches his desk," Gene Acuna, a spokesman for Perry, said late Monday.

If the House should reject the Senate amendments, the measure would go to a conference committee but an aide to Ellis said Monday that appeared unlikely.

The Senate passage of the Byrd bill was one of the highlights of the current session. "This is truly an historic day for the state of Texas," said Ellis. "The Texas Senate has sent a message that our state is not a safe haven for hate. This legislation will help protect all Texans from anyone who decides to act on their hate and prejudice."

The bill was named after James Byrd Jr., the black man who was dragged to death near Jasper, Texas in 1998 after he was chained to the back of a pickup truck by three white men. All three men were convicted of capital murder. Two were sentenced to death and a third to life in prison. "No family should have to go through what they have experienced," Ellis said. "If this legislation spares one Texas family from experiencing the pain felt by the Byrds, then it will be a success."

The present Texas hate crimes law was criticized as too vague and without the specificity required by the constitution in defining a hate crime. The Byrd act would improve the law by ensuring that the hate crime definition follows closely the language approved by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark 1993 *Wisconsin v. Mitchell* case. That case defined a hate crime as one that has been proven in court to have been motivated by "the race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, na-

tional origin, or ancestry" of the victim. The law would also raise the penalty for a crime by one level if a jury concluded during trial that the crime was motivated by hate. For example, a person convicted of painting a swastika on a synagogue would be eligible for a maximum punishment of a \$4,000 fine and 1 year in jail instead of a fine of \$2,000 and 180 days in jail.

Currently, 43 states have hate crimes laws, including 21 that include sexual orientation in their definition. ▼

## Gay Latino man hired to lead national ACLU office

by Katie Szymanski

The news that the national headquarters of the American Civil Liberties Union has hired a new executive director brought with it a surprise within a surprise: Anthony D. Romero, appointed unanimously by the ACLU national board at the end of last month, is openly gay. His domestic partner, whose name he would not reveal to the *New York Times* due to his "professional privacy," apparently is not.

Whether having an "out" lover is necessary to one's success at a civil rights organization remains to be seen.

But there is a lot more to Romero, the first gay and Latino man to take the reins at the ACLU. The 35-year-old public interest attorney comes directly from the

human rights program at the Ford Foundation, a New York-based organization that funds various efforts to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, and promote international cooperation. While at Ford, Romero was single-handedly responsible for getting the foundation to start supporting gay and lesbian work, according to ACLU spokesman Eric Ferrero.

Born in the Bronx to Puerto Rican parents, Romero attended Princeton University and Stanford Law School. His commitment to ACLU principles is solid, with Romero stating, "Our nation faces serious and continuing civil liberties challenges — widespread racial profiling, threats to reproductive freedom, hostility to immigrants, a burgeoning prison population, and, most importantly, a generation of young people who do not fully em-

brace or appreciate the need for constant vigilance and defense of our constitutional freedoms."

And don't count on Romero to follow in the footsteps of the many "rebound relationships" seen at other civil rights organizations and their short-lived replacement executive directors; it seems as though Romero has worked for this opportunity for quite some time.

"Leading the ACLU will be a life's dream and aspiration come true," Romero said in a statement.

As for his private life, Romero's domestic partner is not, in any way, a contradiction to civil rights or gay work, according to the ACLU's Ferrero.

"People make professional choices. It's not that his partner works for the Catholic Church or the military or anywhere that he's relegated to the closet," Ferrero told the *Bay Area Re-*

*porter* about Romero's unnamed partner. "This stuff happens all the time. Anthony took a job. His partner didn't. And he doesn't want to be in the spotlight."

Romero will fill the shoes of Ira Glasser, 63, who has served as ACLU's executive director since 1978. Under Glasser, the organization grew to have world influence, a \$30 million endowment, expanded legal and legislative programs, and a top-notch communications program.

Romero is slated to start his new job in September. His own ideas are destined to propel the organization toward the future; he wants to explore Internet and technology law as it relates to free speech, diversify the ACLU's membership, and most importantly, he told the *Times*, "get people to stand for the organization, rather than just having it stand for them." ▼

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**New Mission for  
TG outreach worker**

by David Fraser

**M**ichelle Erin Garcia started out as Michel Aaron Garcia.

"Michel, not Michael. Very convenient ... it was fated," said Garcia, program coordinator for the new Latina-targeted transgender program at the Mission Council on Alcohol Abuse for the Spanish Speaking.

For Michelle Garcia, the position means a lot of threads in her life have come together in a complex weave.

They include activist, faith healer, caregiver, nutrition counselor, and program director for a radio talk show on health. Garcia was also a drug and alcohol abuse counselor at the Los Angeles Indian Center.

Last year she was Miss Transgender San Francisco 2000.

Right now, she's setting up the Bay Area's first transgender oriented substance abuse program for the Spanish-speaking community.

"We're very lucky to have her," said Leonard Chavez-Smith, the organization's executive director for more than six years. The non-profit Mission Council helps underserved San Francisco communities or individuals — specifically, Latinas/Latinos — with alcohol or drug problems. It also works with the courts to provide alternatives to incarceration for first-time offenders with drug or alcohol charges.

Nearly all programs are offered



Jane Philomen Cleland

in English as well as Spanish.

Garcia, who holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and a master's in herbology, began work in March.

**MediCal options**

"A key issue," Garcia told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "is that a lot of transgender Latina women don't realize they qualify for MediCal benefits. We are a MediCal beneficiary support center, and can help them."

At present, she's working with a small but growing group of clients, currently around a dozen. Many, she said, are 'working girls.' There's an increase in the number of Hispanic women showing up from other places, probably because San Francisco seems to them to be a safe haven."

Historically, a sizable number of transgender women become prostitutes because they can't get a job when they're perceived as male, along the lines of "who wants to hire a man in a dress?" Garcia added.

"This is particularly true for Hispanic TG women who can't speak English ... after a while they say, 'No one's gonna hire me.'"

Garcia's program focuses on counseling and education, helping clients understand their self-worth and potential. "We also teach them about transitioning on the job, and the limelight that puts you in, as well as social services, and the new legislation [granting transgender city employees medical benefits]. There are precedents they should be aware of."

"A lot of transgender people do well here ... there's a San Francisco Golden Gate smile for many. I've met many courageous women who have gone through the surgery." Garcia's sexual reassignment surgery was seven years ago. "But," she noted, "the Latino community is not quite up to that level of awareness. That's why there is a high percentage of prostitution concentrated in the Mission District."

**Culture and dignity**

Garcia said the program she's developing at the Mission Council is "designed for transgender needs, so that people who come here can maintain their dignity with a sense of cultural values."

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**Clift hanger**  
*TG discrimination suit filed against hotel*

by Katie Szymanski

**A** lot has happened on the gender and class front in the last couple of weeks. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed health benefits for transgender city workers, setting an example of inclusiveness for the city and beyond. The historic Clift Hotel completed its renovations, redefining for the world what expensive taste really means. And James Davis, otherwise known as the classy drag queen Elaine Lancaster, filed a lawsuit against the Clift for refusing to give him a room, allegedly because he was dressed as a woman.

Davis filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court last Tuesday, May 1, charging the Clift with negligence, intentional infliction of emotional harm, and violation of transgender discrimination protection laws, according to Clarice Liu, Davis' attorney at Wotman & Cloutier.

"I wanted a written apology and a promise to enact sensitivity training, and they wouldn't do any of it," Davis told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "When you're dealing with arrogance the only way to get them to take notice is to go after them financially, unfortunately."

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Davis was in town last October to host the Exotic Erotic Ball with Dennis Rodman, and the two



Elaine Lancaster aka James Davis

in," said Davis.

But once downstairs, Davis encountered the same staff member who had denied him a room, and he was told that suddenly, there were no rooms available.

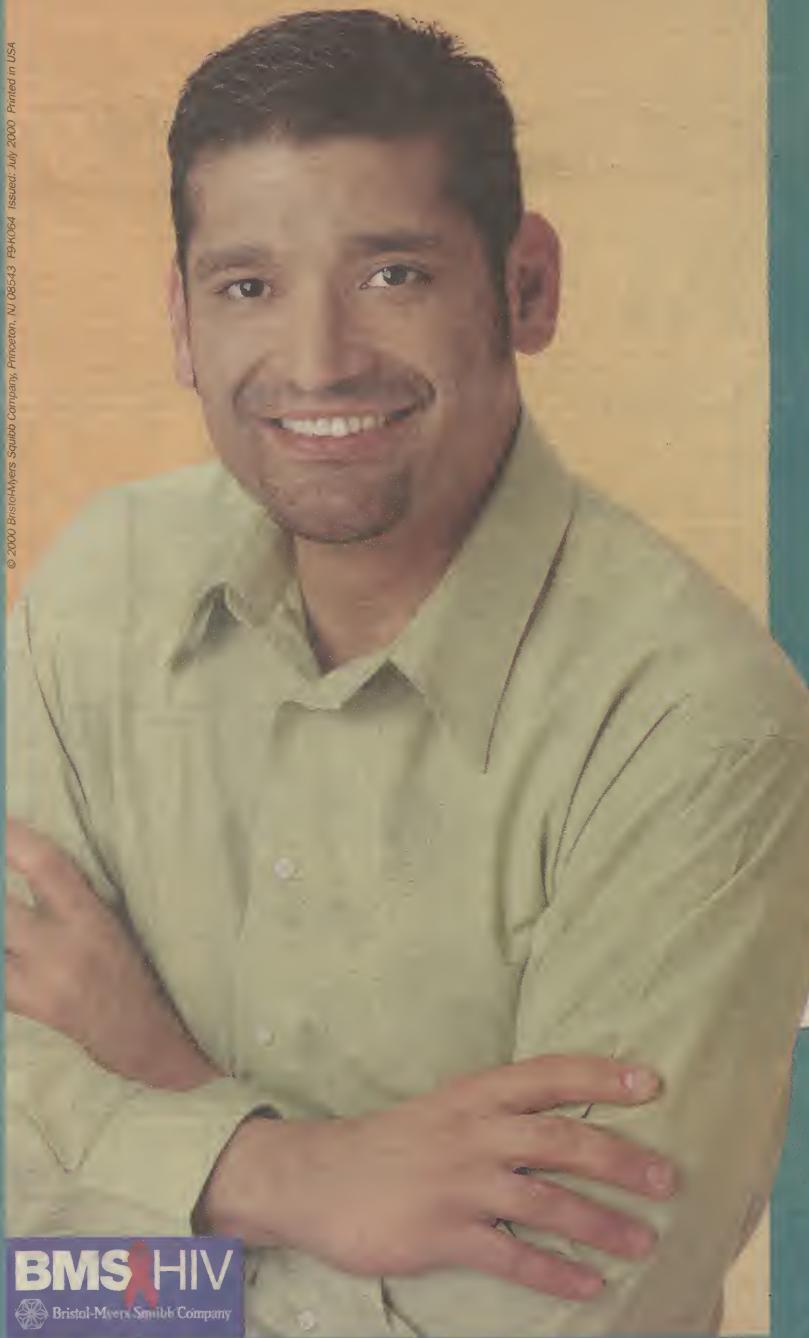
Tim McEneny, general manager of the Clift Hotel, contended that Davis was not given a room because he did not have proper identification or a credit card, but others said that although Davis originally left his wallet upstairs, it wasn't until the wallet was actually retrieved that the staff member decided there were no more rooms.

Davis also denies the most recent allegations from McEneny that the lawsuit is an attempt to generate publicity for his career as an entertainer. Davis, already a celebrity as Lancaster, who is the premier drag queen of South Beach, Florida, reportedly pulls in a six-figure income from television appearances and touring the world with the likes of Rodman and Elton John.

"My ultimate objective is to raise national consciousness for the struggle of transgender people, who are the most discriminated-against people on the planet," said Davis. "I was on the plane to San Francisco, and people were talking about the city's passage of sex change benefits, and I could not believe the ignorance coming from people who had no idea who was within earshot. It just terrifies me to death." ▼

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**SAFETY INFORMATION:**

An increase of lactic acid (lactic acidosis) in the blood, an enlarged liver and liver failure, which can cause death have been reported. Fatal lactic acidosis has occurred in pregnant women receiving the combination of didanosine and stavudine.

Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas) has occurred with ZERIT when taken in combination with didanosine and other HIV drugs.

ZERIT may cause numbness, tingling or pain in the hands or feet (neuropathy). This risk is increased in patients with advanced HIV disease or a history of neuropathy. If you are taking ZERIT in combination with other medicines that may cause similar side effects, you may have a higher chance of developing these effects.

Frequent side effects in triple combination regimens are nausea, headache, diarrhea, rash, vomiting and neuropathy. ZERIT does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others. Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking ZERIT. ZERIT should be used during pregnancy only after discussion with your doctor.

1) IMS NPI Prescription Data 9/99-8/00.  
2) 63% (49/79) and 45% (49/101) of patients taking ZERIT with lamivudine and indinavir had viral load undetectable at 48 weeks in an as-treated and intent to treat analysis respectively. (START 1. Data on file, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company).

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**WARNING**

**LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING STAVUDINE AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS. FATAL LACTIC ACIDOSIS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PREGNANT WOMEN WHO RECEIVED THE COMBINATION OF STAVUDINE AND DIDANOSINE WITH OTHER ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENTS. THE COMBINATION OF STAVUDINE AND DIDANOSINE SHOULD BE USED WITH CAUTION DURING PREGNANCY AND IS RECOMMENDED ONLY IF THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT CLEARLY OUTWEIGHS THE POTENTIAL RISK (SEE WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS: PREGNANCY).**

**FATAL AND NONFATAL PANCREATITIS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THERAPY WHEN ZERIT WAS PART OF A COMBINATION REGIMEN THAT INCLUDED DIDANOSINE, WITH OR WITHOUT HYDROXYUREA, IN BOTH TREATMENT-NAIVE AND TREATMENT-EXPERIENCED PATIENTS, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSION (SEE WARNINGS).**

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

**ZERIT® (stavudine), in combination with other antiretroviral agents, is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection (see Clinical Studies). Clinical Studies: Combination Therapy.** The combination use of ZERIT is based on the results of clinical studies in HIV-infected patients in double- and triple-combination regimens with other antiretroviral agents. One of these studies (START 1) was a multicenter, randomized, open-label study comparing ZERIT (40 mg twice daily) plus lamivudine plus indinavir to zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir in 202 treatment-naive patients. Both regimens resulted in a similar magnitude of inhibition of HIV RNA levels and increases in CD4 cell counts through 48 weeks. **Monotherapy.** The efficacy of ZERIT was demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind study (AI455-019, conducted 1992-1994) comparing ZERIT with zidovudine in 822 patients with a spectrum of HIV-related symptoms. The outcome in terms of progression of HIV disease and death was similar for both drugs.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

**ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.**

**WARNINGS**

**1. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis/Hepatic Failure.** Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including stavudine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received the combination of stavudine and didanosine with other antiretroviral agents. The combination of stavudine and didanosine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk (see PRECAUTIONS: Pregnancy). In addition, deaths attributed to hepatotoxicity have occurred in patients receiving the combination of ZERIT, didanosine, and hydroxyurea. Particular caution should be exercised when administering ZERIT to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with ZERIT should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis) even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations. An increased risk of hepatotoxicity, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine and hydroxyurea compared to when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for signs of liver toxicity.

**2. Peripheral Neuropathy:** Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving ZERIT therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, a history of neuropathy, or concurrent non-zidovudine drug therapy, including didanosine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). **3. Pancreatitis:** Fatal and nonfatal pancreatitis has occurred during the use of ZERIT. ZERIT was contraindicated in patients that include didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea, in both treatment-naive and treatment-experienced patients, regardless of degree of immunosuppression. The combination of ZERIT and didanosine (with or without hydroxyurea) and any other agents that are toxic to the pancreas should be suspended in patients with suspected pancreatitis. Reinstatement of ZERIT after a confirmed diagnosis of pancreatitis should be undertaken with particular caution and close patient monitoring. The new regimen should contain neither didanosine nor hydroxyurea.

**PRECAUTIONS**

**Information for Patients (See Patient Information Leaflet in full prescribing information.)** Patients should be informed that an important toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be aware that peripheral neuropathy is manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in hands or feet, and that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians. Patients should be counseled that peripheral neuropathy occurs with greater frequency in patients who have advanced HIV disease or a history of peripheral neuropathy, and that dose modification and/or discontinuation of ZERIT may be required if toxicity develops. Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that when ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. An increased risk of pancreatitis, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with the combination of ZERIT and didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for symptoms of pancreatitis. An increased risk of hepatotoxicity, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine and hydroxyurea. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for signs of liver toxicity. Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. Patients should be informed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection. **Drug Interactions:** Zidovudine may competitively inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of didanosine. Therefore, use of zidovudine in combination with ZERIT is not recommended. (See DRUG INTERACTIONS: PHARMACOLOGY in full prescribing information.)

**Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility.** In 2-year carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats, stavudine was noncarcinogenic at doses which produced exposures (AUC) 30 and 165 times, respectively, human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Benign and malignant liver tumors in mice and rats and malignant urinary bladder tumors in male rats occurred at levels of exposure 250 (mice) and 732 (rats) times human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogen-

esis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250  $\mu$ g/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500  $\mu$ g/mL, with and without metabolic activation). In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days. No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on  $C_{max}$ ) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

**Pregnancy: Pregnancy "Category C".** Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on  $C_{max}$ ) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternbra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 35 times the human exposure. An increase in early fetal mortality (birth to 7 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while no effect was noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. Animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in pregnant women. Stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk. Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received the combination of stavudine and didanosine with other antiretroviral agents. It is unclear if pregnancy augments the risk of lactic acidosis/hepatitis steatosis syndrome reported in non-pregnant individuals receiving nucleoside analogues (see WARNINGS: Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis/Hepatic Failure). The combination of stavudine and didanosine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk (see PRECAUTIONS: Pregnancy).

**Fatal and Nonfatal Pancreatitis have occurred during therapy when ZERIT was part of a combination regimen that included didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea, in both treatment-naive and treatment-experienced patients, regardless of degree of immunosuppression (see WARNINGS).**

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**1. Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis/Hepatic Failure:** Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including stavudine and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Fatal lactic acidosis has been reported in pregnant women who received the combination of stavudine and didanosine with other antiretroviral agents. The combination of stavudine and didanosine should be used with caution during pregnancy and is recommended only if the potential benefit clearly outweighs the potential risk (see PRECAUTIONS: Pregnancy). In addition, deaths attributed to hepatotoxicity have occurred in patients receiving the combination of ZERIT, didanosine, and hydroxyurea. Particular caution should be exercised when administering ZERIT to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with ZERIT should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis) even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations. An increased risk of hepatotoxicity, which may be fatal, may occur in patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine and hydroxyurea compared to when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with this combination should be closely monitored for signs of liver toxicity.

**2. Peripheral Neuropathy:** Peripheral neuropathy, manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the hands or feet, has been reported in patients receiving ZERIT therapy. Peripheral neuropathy has occurred more frequently in patients with advanced HIV disease, a history of neuropathy, or concurrent non-zidovudine drug therapy, including didanosine (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

**3. Pancreatitis:** Fatal and nonfatal pancreatitis has occurred during the use of ZERIT. ZERIT was contraindicated in patients that include didanosine, with or without hydroxyurea, in both treatment-naive and treatment-experienced patients, regardless of degree of immunosuppression. The combination of ZERIT and didanosine (with or without hydroxyurea) and any other agents that are toxic to the pancreas should be suspended in patients with suspected pancreatitis. Reinstatement of ZERIT after a confirmed diagnosis of pancreatitis should be undertaken with particular caution and close patient monitoring. The new regimen should contain neither didanosine nor hydroxyurea.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**Adults:** ZERIT therapy has been associated with peripheral neuropathy, which can be severe, is dose related, and occurs more frequently in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine, in patients with advanced HIV infection, or in patients who have previously experienced peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may be progressive and may result in permanent functional impairment. Dose adjustment is recommended for patients with renal impairment. Dose adjustment is recommended for patients with peripheral neuropathy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the dose (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Dosage Adjustment).

**duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks and a median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks. Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in two controlled combination studies, START 1 and START 2 are provided. Grades 3-4 presented first by percentage as follows: (Grades 3-4) START 1—ZERIT (stavudine)+lamivudine+indinavir ( $n=100$ )—Bilirubin >2.6  $\times$  ULN (upper limit of normal)-7%, SGOT (AST) >5  $\times$  ULN-5%, SGPT (ALT) >5  $\times$  ULN-6%, GGT >5  $\times$  ULN-2%, Lipase >2  $\times$  ULN-6%, Amylase >2  $\times$  ULN-4%; zidovudine+lamivudine+indinavir ( $n=102$ )—Bilirubin >2.6  $\times$  ULN-2%, SGPT (AST) >5  $\times$  ULN-2%, SGPT (ALT) >5  $\times$  ULN-1%. Percentages for (Grades 3-4) START 2—ZERIT+didanosine+indinavir ( $n=102$ )—Bilirubin >2.6  $\times$  ULN-10%, SGOT (AST) >5  $\times$  ULN-8%, SGPT (ALT) >5  $\times$  ULN-8%, Lipase >2  $\times$  ULN-8%, Amylase >2  $\times$  ULN-7%; zidovudine+lamivudine+indinavir ( $n=103$ )—Total Bilirubin-6%, SGOT (AST)-53%, SGPT (ALT)-50%, GGT-28%, Lipase-26%, Amylase-31%; zidovudine+lamivudine+indinavir ( $n=103$ —Total Bilirubin-55%, SGOT (AST)-20%, GGT (ALT)-18%, Lipase-19%, Amylase-17%. Observed During Clinical Practice:** The following events have been identified during post-approval use of ZERIT. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to ZERIT, or a combination of these factors. **Body as a Whole:** abdominal pain, allergic reaction, and chills/fever. **Digestive Disorders:** anorexia. **Exocrine Gland Disorders:** pancreatitis [including fatal cases (see WARNINGS)]. **Hematologic Disorders:** anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia. **Liver and Biliary Disorders:** ascites and hepatitis (see WARNINGS), hepatitis, and liver failure. **Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders:** myopathy. **Nervous System:** Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

**DVERDOSAGE**

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage reveals no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. Stavudine can be removed by hemodialysis; the mean  $\pm$  SD hemodialysis clearance of stavudine is  $120 \pm 18$  mL/min. Whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis has not been studied.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The interval between doses of ZERIT should be 12 hours. ZERIT may be taken without regard to meals. **Adults:** The recommended dose based on body weight is as follows: 40 mg twice daily for patients  $\geq 60$  kg and 30 mg twice daily for patients  $<60$  kg. **Pediatrics:** The recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 1 mg/kg/day, given every 12 hours. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dosage. **Dosage Adjustment:** Patients should be monitored for the development of peripheral neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. These symptoms may be difficult to detect in young children or infants. If these symptoms are detected during therapy, the dose should be interrupted. Symptoms may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the recommended dose of ZERIT should be considered. **Renal Impairment:** ZERIT may be administered to adult patients with impaired renal function with adjustment in dose by patient weight as follows: Creatinine Clearance (mL/min) of  $\geq 50$  <60 kg-40 mg every 24 hours <60 kg-30 mg every 24 hours; Creatinine Clearance (mL/min) of 26-50 ( $\geq 50$  kg-20 mg every 12 hours and  $<60$  kg-15 mg every 12 hours); Creatinine Clearance (mL/min) of 10-20 ( $\geq 50$  kg-20 mg every 24 hours and  $<60$  kg-15 mg every 24 hours). Since urinary excretion is also a major route of elimination of stavudine in pediatric patients, the clearance of stavudine may be altered in children with renal impairment. Although there are insufficient data to recommend a specific dose adjustment of ZERIT in this patient population, a reduction in the dose and/or an increase in the interval between doses should be considered. **Hemodialysis Patients:** The recommended dose is 20 mg every 24 hours ( $\geq 60$  kg) or 15 mg every 24 hours ( $<60$  kg), administered after the completion of hemodialysis and at the same time of day on non-dialysis days. **Method of Preparation:** ZERIT for Oral Solution. Prior to use, add the appropriate amount of water to a container containing the dry powder in purified water to a concentration of 1 mg stavudine per mL of solution, as follows: 1. Add 202 mL of purified water to the container. 2. Shake container vigorously until the powder dissolves completely. Constitution in this way produces 200 mL (deliverable volume) of 1 mg/mL stavudine solution. The solution may appear slightly hazy. 3. Dispense solution in original container with measuring cup provided. Instruct patient to shake the container vigorously prior to measuring each dose and to store the tightly closed container in a refrigerator, 36° to 45°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

**How Supplied**

**ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules** are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Table 1					
Product Strength	Capsize Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDc No.	
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	15	0003-1964-01	
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	20	0003-1965-01	
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966	30	0003-1966-01	
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	40	0003-1967-01	

**ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution** is a dye-free, fruit-flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label and in the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION section of this insert. ZERIT for Oral Solution (NDc No. 0003-1968-01) is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water.

US Patent No.: 4,978,655

**Storage:** ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dental

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rector of the University of the Pacific Dental School, which receives CARE funding for centralized dental services. Centralized services, he said, are supposed to mean schools and institutions, while decentralized services are supposed to be community-based, and the HIV Planning Council mandates that community-based programs exist outside of dental schools and within the target communities where HIV is most prevalent. Additionally, he is a member of the local HIV Planning Council, which determines service categories that should be funded with the city's CARE allocation; the planning council does not award individual contracts for service.

## Paper versus practice

But the same report that criticized Community Dental gave absolutely no demographic data for UCSF's dentistry school, and cited as weaknesses the fact that UCSF's proposal had "no mention of number of past clients, nor was demographic data presented." UCSF also had "no discussion of Tenderloin services," and its outcome objectives had "no strengths noted," according to the report. Overall, the strengths listed for Community Dental exceeded those listed for

UCSF, according to the report.

"The panel assumed gay white men came to the Castro and Latinos to the Mission, but people from all over the city were coming to both clinics," said Gowdey of the demographic criticisms lodged against Community Dental. "And besides, what track record does UCSF have? There's not a single shred of evidence that UCSF could do any better. In fact the opposite is true because it's not located in a community of high incidence of HIV."

What it seems to come down to is a financial bargain as far as how CARE money is spent: the DPH panel decided to split the annualized \$600,000 in funding between two groups, with two-thirds going to UCSF, and one-third going to DPH's Tom Waddell Clinic so that Tenderloin needs can be addressed. UCSF, noted the summary report, estimated that many more clients would walk through its doors than Community Dental.

But while Gowdey acknowledged that UCSF may look like a better financial deal on paper than Community Dental, he said that what seems less expensive will come at great cost to Community Dental patients.

"How can an office of real den-

tists compete financially when UCSF has dental students working for free, who just need to get patients in the door?" said Gowdey. "The whole reason to establish the neighborhood clinics in the first place was to provide an alternative to the slow and tedious process of receiving dental care from dental students. Many people with HIV and AIDS cannot tolerate long and exhausting procedures at dental schools. A procedure that takes Community Dental a few months can take schools up to a year."

"I take issue with the process by which UCSF was awarded this contract. If somebody is better suited to do a service than me, then I'll bow out, but that's not the case here. They want to set up decentralized dental care, and only centralized dental programs applied. We were the only applicant that can fulfill the CARE Council's mandates and the criteria set in the requests for proposals."

UCSF officials declined to comment.

A grievance procedure is under way, and patients of Community Dental have reportedly filed letters of objection with DPH and the mayor, but as it stands, Community Dental is winding down and preparing for its final weeks. ▶

## Hispanic

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how parents are part of the problem and part of the solution.

"Now that we have this data, we're working on strategies" to inform parents about how to talk about LGBT issues to their kids, Teague added. Horizons has begun to design tools for parents ranging from printed materials to Web sites.

"The data overall are very encouraging," said Teague. "Parents want to pass along tolerance and acceptance, and a very, very large majority say gays should be treated like everyone else."

"The numbers are even higher in the Latino population, which goes against the stereotype of being very socially conservative."

Moreover, he said, the survey found that "unlike in the rest of the population, it didn't matter if Latino parents were churchgoing or not."

A review of cultural history from Leonard Chavez-Smith helps explain why the Latino anti-gay stereotype is so widely held among non-Latinos.

Chavez-Smith is executive director of the Mission Council on Alcohol Abuse for the Spanish-Speaking.

"In Mexico and Central America, you don't seem to have the same problem with parents and gay and lesbian issues that we have here," Chavez told the B.A.R.

"Children don't learn to hate certain groups in those countries as they do in others, particularly the United States. The problem is when you get over here, there's a whole different orientation toward the process."

"In Mexico, you usually get a positive approach because there are many, many youth involved in a gay lifestyle. Families don't make a big deal about it and are supportive."

"But it becomes striking if you ask a Latino parent who was born here how they feel about the issue. Usually, as kids trying to fit in, they assimilate the basic homophobic value system of the U.S., and the tolerant attitude changes."

Chavez added that, "The Horizons Foundation is probably right on the parents, probably because

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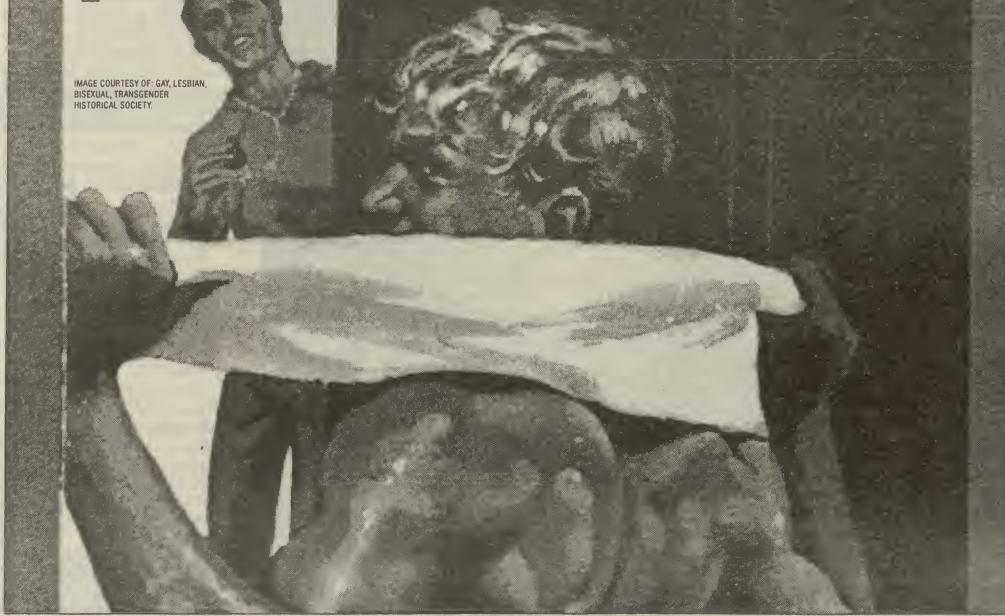
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## HIV regs

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clinics that do confidential testing to leave names off the forms when reporting new HIV cases.

"If the name is mistakenly on a report," said Baird, "we would ask local health jurisdictions to destroy it. We ourselves would shred it. We don't want names; we're not trying to get the names."

She said the state is interested in preventing accidental dissemination of data that could identify people and is "very strict" on keeping information private.

"All state and local staff in AIDS surveillance also do HIV surveillance, and they all are trained in current laws. These are very clear about protecting against the inappropriate disclosure of HIV results. They know that the law protects clients, and that there are penalties for violation."

Also, Baird said, "We require that workers sign confidentiality agreements. If they have documents, these are locked in a briefcase, not left in cars. The documents go back to work sites in separate locations from staff, so the data are secure."

As well as HIV diagnosis and unique identifier, the proposed state reporting forms require clinicians to provide your DHS patient number; lab report number; race/ethnicity; country of birth; city, county, and Zip code of residence at time of diagnosis; facility of diagnosis; plus some information on sexual history, intravenous drug use, insurance, and treatment.

### Cracking codes

A skeptical view comes from Professor Latanya Sweeney of Carnegie-Mellon University, an

expert on privacy issues and the robustness of coded identifiers.

"To what extent is the promise of privacy at odds with the state's needs?" Sweeney asked in an interview with the B.A.R. "A lot of states claim that HIV testing should only be done anonymously. By that, I mean that nothing I can do to the data, using readily available information, could identify an individual."

"This [proposed] code in combination with other data collected will not meet that criterion, due to the ease of identification."

Sweeney added that her research shows that most people can be personally identified through a very simple set of factors including gender and Zip code.

Proponents of reporting say there has been virtually no harm done, even in the states where names of HIV-positive persons are reported.

The exception is Florida, where a high-profile 1997 case highlighted the system's fragility after the names of AIDS patients were released at a state agency.

Among the many larger issues is whether coded reporting of HIV cases would deter people – especially those who may fear exposure.

A 1998 multi-state study of new AIDS cases in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Bindman et al.) found that "The mean time from learning they were HIV-positive to the diagnosis of AIDS was 1,246 days for persons tested anonymously versus 718 days for persons tested confidentially."

The study, which did not include California, concluded: "Anonymous testing contributes to early HIV testing and medical care."

### Alameda and anonymity

"This [proposed] system seems to really ask for everything but your name," said Susan Black, HIV testing and HCV coordinator at the Alameda County Office of AIDS. "I'm concerned that the state health department is mixing apples with oranges, and may use the reporting system for gathering other information."

Black said Alameda County "still has a growing epidemic. Among the disenfranchised people in the county, it's hard to convince people to get tested. If you're an IV drug user, there's more important things you're focused on. You're probably going to think if you test positive, your drug habit may be exposed."

"I am really opposed to anything that creates a barrier to testing, anything that makes testing other than what it should be is going to backfire, especially the new regulations."

"Among people of color, we have a 5 to 7 percent HIV infection rate in Alameda County, specifically among African Americans who are tested. Anything we can do to lower the barriers to testing is really good."

### Avoiding duplication

Paradoxically, considering the potential damage from exposure of HIV-diagnosed persons, reporting by name is nothing new. Diseases from measles to tuberculosis to AIDS are reported by name in many states.

California's proposed new rules on reporting of HIV cases would assign a non-name code unique to each individual who tests positive for HIV. Health care providers such as hospitals, clinics, and laboratories would be re-

quired to use the code when reporting new HIV cases to public authorities as the new regulations mandate.

The Department of Health Services proposal (regulation control number R-19-00) notes that officials considered and rejected the options of reporting by name, by a hybrid of name and code, and reporting without any identifier at all. The proposed code meets Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

California law prohibits reporting the name of an HIV-infected individual "except under special circumstances." AIDS cases, on the other hand, must be reported by name.

The idea of a hybrid name and code meant that infected persons' names would go to local health departments such as the San Francisco Department of Public Health. They would encode the name and destroy evidence of the name, simplifying procedures and helping avoid duplication of case reports.

### DPH concerns

Dr. Sandy Schwarcz, director of the AIDS surveillance unit at DPH, said she had not yet evaluated how well the proposed codes protect identities.

"I do think that DHS should do this prior to adopting the codes," Schwarcz said in a statement to the B.A.R.

Asked about increased workload, she added: "It is difficult to determine how much extra work and time will be taken up with HIV reporting. We estimate that we have approximately 8,000 people living with HIV infection but not AIDS. Most are in care and we will need to complete reporting forms for these people."

"This will double our work load for a couple of years. After that things will slow down somewhat but I am not sure just how much extra work will be involved once the initial case report forms are in."

In fact the new rules are designed to cover only new diagnoses.

Laboratories getting test orders would have to report back to local public health officers all HIV-positive results, plus data that includes gender, birth date, and first and third letters of patient's last name (or DHS client number).

"What if your last name is Ng?" asked a local HIV specialist at a San Francisco clinic, ironically alluding to a common last name among Cantonese-speaking ethnic Chinese here.

The proposal is modeled on encoding used in several states; others report names.

Reporting without identifier creates the probability of duplicate case reports for the same individual, and could potentially lead to inflated numbers of case reports.

A state spokeswoman said if the rules, which do not require legislative action, are approved, it will still be several months before they take effect.

### CDC guidelines

The CDC is critical in this issue because it sets guidelines for public health research and provides considerable funding for HIV/AIDS – and numerous other illnesses – to state and local health agencies.

State and local officials take very seriously the CDC guidelines because they put their agencies explicitly at risk for funding cuts if they don't follow the rules. The regulation proposal mentions the need for California public health to maintain its competitiveness for federal funding.

Beginning in 2005, the proposal states, funding under the feder-

al Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act will depend on "the number of estimated living HIV and AIDS cases, rather than estimated living AIDS cases alone."

In 2004, the secretary of Health and Human Services will decide if a state's reported cases, channeled through CDC, are "unreliable or inaccurate." If so, subsequent funding will count only AIDS cases.

Now, it often takes 10 years for HIV to become AIDS.

Atlanta's requirements – that is to say, Washington's – thus are drawing an ever thicker line on the playground of medical politics. Agencies and states that step forward to challenge the pecking order could get a federal fist in their fiscal nose.

The DHS proposal sets aside \$1.43 million for California fiscal year 2000-2001 to help local health departments carry out the federal mandate on HIV reporting. The CDC has granted the Office of AIDS \$500,000 to study effective types of coding. One major concern is duplication, which local health departments will be expected to help weed out.

### Range of reactions

A University of California, San Francisco researcher familiar with the HIV privacy issue was highly critical of the new regulations, on condition of anonymity: "The state Office of AIDS told us where they feel the biggest possible mischief might occur is at the local level. We agree."

"There's no question that in smaller communities, where [health] workers have closer relationships with law enforcement and health in a variety of other services, leakages will occur."

"There needs to be anonymous, truly anonymous testing. And there needs to be, in the case of HIV reporting of a confidential test, a way that people cannot be backtracked by the use of information."

Among the critical broader issues raised by the overall public health versus privacy question is what to do if you test positive. This gets at the heart of the moral and professional dilemmas faced by people being tested and the public health establishment.

The UCSF researcher said, "Many states retain anonymous testing as an important way to help people feel secure if they test positive. The problem is, if you want help after testing positive, you need to go to other agencies or clinics for help. Most people don't realize that a great deal of their medical data are already being reported."

"My concern about no-name testing is they've chosen identifiers which can be so easily linked to a person's name. It's scary to me with the shift in the political climate that the foundations are being laid for potential mischief at increasingly higher levels [of government]. And to have state and national databases that can so easily be linked to specific individuals is a very powerful tool that can, in my opinion, only be misused."

The CDC, the researcher added, "has spent a lot of time creating compatibility between the states. They already are sending in technical support. CDC has worked to have a system that can identify individuals concerned. There is reliance on people's names, birth dates, and Social Security numbers."

The researcher concluded, "To truly have this be a public process, the state needs to extend the public hearing dates. I'm concerned about the lack of public awareness on this issue."

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

this stuff together [for analysis]. It's very clear by the way they set this up that they don't want feedback. The hearing process has no intention of responding to anyone's concerns."

**Good for whom?**

Robert Kim, staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, was cautiously optimistic: "We are always vigilant on government storage of sensitive private data and sensitive medical information. We share those concerns [about exposure]."

"There could be the possibility of abuse or people not following the system properly. There's always a balance between the need for information and the need for privacy. For the time being I think the [proposed] system falls in the range where both concerns are being met. But this is not set in stone forever."

"Some unique identifier systems are pretty easy to crack," said Steve Gibson of the Stop AIDS Project, speaking for himself only. "I hope this one is not. The qualitative data suggest that people are less likely to be tested if they think they can be identified."

"I personally go to anonymous

sites to be tested. I asked my doctor and she said, 'Test anonymously.'

"But public health is also critically important. I appreciate that California is trying to prevent names reporting. Whatever system is put in place, you have to have community-based agencies who are trusted, like the Mission Center, the AIDS Health Project ... they will be key as to whether people get tested or not."

"Using the non-names code may push people who are not comfortable to not get tested ... for example, the Mission Neighborhood Health Center works with a lot of undocumented residents, who may have more pressing issues that they don't want made public."

"Also, the political climate can change; it's in flux, especially at the national level."

**Weighing relative risk**

At the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs, focuses on the relative values of testing and reporting.

"At the AIDS foundation, advocacy groups need to make damn good and sure this information is guarded to the utmost,"

Van Gorder said. "I don't think it can be guaranteed 100 percent effective, but it is important to make health care good."

"The state has a very good track record. We need to be vigilant, but there's certainly a commitment to a high level of confidentiality."

Many names of people who are HIV-positive without AIDS are maintained on a variety of lists, including ADAP services, Van Gorder said. "The Office of AIDS has done an effective job of maintaining confidentiality around California for the most part."

The key, he said, is that "people who think they're at risk should get tested, whatever the setting. This is true if you compare the potential risk of not knowing your status with the risk of breach of privacy. It would be unfortunate if people used the [proposed regulations] as an excuse not to get tested." ▼

The state AIDS office Web site is <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ooa/ooaindex.htm>. The regulations can be downloaded at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ooa/Programs/Epidemiology/HIVReporting/HIVReporting.htm>.

Marys, and Acts of Contrition, and it was all supposed to go away. Nothing happened."

The teenage Michel visited a lesbian-gay center in Los Angeles, the only place around that had a program for transgender youth. That opened the door to some hope, but amidst her own confusion and following broad social norms, Michel married a woman and had kids. The wife was "a borderline lunatic," said Garcia, who later divorced her spouse.

"My parents were extremely hetero," she said. "My father, Joseph Garcia, was a world-respected engineer who designed aerospace engines. When I told him, he said, 'Not my son.'"

Another major force in Garcia's life was her grandmother, a faith healer in San Diego.

So began her healing path. It had some tricky turns, especially with her late father, who had a number of strokes before he died a few years ago. He did not know of her surgery.

"I picked him up from the hospital with a friend," Garcia smiled. "I had transitioned already ... so there were two beautiful women in the car ... he was happy to go with us."

"We took him to Portland. He didn't believe it was me, and at first he was just distant. In his last months, he began to see I was just there to nurture him, that I came

from a place of love for him.

"So it eventually got to where he would be in the hospital and would say, 'Nurse! Have you seen my daughter? She looks fabulous!'" ▼

For more information on the Mission Council for Alcohol Abuse, call (415) 826-6767.

**TG outreach**

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"For transgender women who come in, especially those on the streets, I try to let them know about alternatives, and also what to do if they're arrested and need a hand."

Among many other programs, the council overall provides both group and one-on-one counseling, with many clients served for six to 18 months.

Transgender people here face ignorance, derision, and a great deal of persecution, Garcia noted.

Her own background bears that out. As Michel Aaron, she was raised as a boy in a less-than-liberal household.

"But," said Garcia, "I knew immediately at age 3 that I identified with women. But of course I didn't know how to rationalize it."

"At 8, I borrowed my mother's outfit for my first cross dressing. When I was 13, it was the first time I tried going outside the house as a girl ... I wore cutoff jeans, sandals, a blouse, and had my hair done. The local boys would stare and whistle at me — I felt fabulous, like I was on another planet."

**Acts of contrition**

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# Treatment info: Reader beware

by Jeff Gustavson,  
Survive AIDS Writers Pool

As an HIV treatment activist with an eye out for new developments, I read quite a bit of information in sources as diverse as scientific journals and newspapers on various Internet Web sites. The AIDS Education Global Information Service (AEGIS, [www.aegis.org](http://www.aegis.org)) provides an invaluable service that has enabled me to monitor a wide variety of sources via their listserv. They will e-mail anyone, free of charge, all the articles appearing on their Web site. However, an article from United Press International senior science correspondent Mike Martin came through last week that was truly over the top, hyping a blood filter system for HIV.

## Stop making sense

"A novel filtration process designed to remove the AIDS virus from human blood has shown excellent promise in a series of pre-clinical trials, according to researchers at Aethlon Medical, an early stage biotechnology firm in La Jolla, California ... 'We use the same hollow-fiber cartridge used for kidney dialysis,' Tullis [a company spokesman] said. The cartridge contains hair-like fibers with pores that trap particles larger than the virus. Smaller particles pass through the pores and circulate over polysaccharide beads coated with antibodies. These antibodies are specific for Gp120, a surface protein on the AIDS virus. The virus sticks to the antibody-coated beads, allowing uncontaminated material to flow through the filters and back into the blood stream. In essence, Tullis said, the system filters out AIDS virus in much the same way a water filtration system removes lead and

other impurities from drinking water. In the Hemoperfusion case, Tullis removed HIV from several 10 milliliter samples of contaminated blood plasma."

## Outside looking in

This article goes on to say that as a treatment mechanism this could not stand alone. However, under what circumstances could such a filtration process have benefit? Filtering a few 10 milliliter

(each a couple teaspoons' worth) samples does not a treatment make. As is well known, HIV infects a wide variety of white blood cells and other cells throughout the body, the most devastated of which are CD4+ helper T-cells.

At any one time, greater than 90 percent of the virus-containing/producing lymphocytes (of which CD4s are but a subset) are not actually in the peripheral blood, rather in the tissues and the lymphatic system and are therefore not susceptible to the filter. Since the proposed treatment only would address free virus, it could not deal with cells that are latently infected, so for all those whose viral load is already "undetectable" via the use of anti-retroviral therapy or otherwise, it could not help them. For those who have virus that is actively being produced, an invasive procedure like this would not make good sense since it could only prevent infection of cells for the slice of time that the blood would be passed over the gp120 antibody beads.

## Don't shoot me, I'm only the piano player

When Survive AIDS contacted the UPI reporter regarding his article, Martin was dismissive. He wrote, "If you are calling into question some of the nation's leading virologists [Kumar and Sarayan at the University of Kansas Medical Center] ... so be it, but I would rather not argue your case for you." Being unaware of such "leading" virologists, this writer contacted some well-known HIV virologists to get their take on the issue.

A diplomatic Dr. Scott Hammer, of Columbia University, said that skepticism was very appropriate. Dr. Tom Merigan, from Stanford, was less reserved and wrote, "This is just naively constructed engineering type nonmedical dream science which is worthless

unless it can be reduced to practice and produces a fall in viral load where other approaches do not. It is an invasive procedure with risks of its own to patients and staff. It is no different from anything suggested previously other than antibody columns which never went anywhere. I am very doubtful it would have any use."

## Clouds in my coffee

Merigan continued: "The media are no better than their sources or 'experts' and the less experienced can be fooled readily."

**"This is just naively constructed engineering type nonmedical dream science."**

one person tell me it was okay to take half their prescribed dosage because a fellow person with HIV had told them so. Although I myself quite a bit on the Internet, there too, you must be careful to not believe everything you read."

"I have watched the media over the years hold out false hope," AEGIS' Greer said. "In a way, it has been the cause of the attitude that HIV is now a 'manageable' disease which of course it is not. On occasion AEGIS sees false representation and we forward such information to various government

agencies. A recent case was Ives Health making a supplement that was supposed to cure AIDS."

## Putting out fire with gasoline

Survive AIDS spoke by phone with Jon Cohen, writer for Science magazine and author of the book *Shots in the Dark: The Wayward Search for an AIDS Vaccine* about HIV reporting in the media. "One must consider the great difference between possibility and probability. For example, gasoline will kill HIV in the test tube. It's reproducible and works 100 percent of the time. However, there is zero probability that ingesting gasoline as a treatment for HIV infection will offer any benefit."

Another trap people should beware of, according to Cohen, is the cliché "Experts say ... [as a reader you should]. Ask what makes them experts? Was it in a peer-reviewed journal? Which journal was it in? Did the data achieve statistical significance? A joke among journalists is that if your mother tells you she loves you, you should check the source. And no single source is infallible."

Cohen emphatically stated that "Remarkable claims require remarkable proof" and therefore to accept less than that would do ourselves a disservice. ▀

**Recommended Web sites on HIV:** [www.niaid.nih.gov/daid](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/daid), [www.actupny.org](http://www.actupny.org), [www.hivinsite.ucsf.edu](http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu), [www.critpath.org](http://www.critpath.org), [www.medscape.com](http://www.medscape.com), and [www.aegis.org](http://www.aegis.org).

## Volunteers needed for PI treatment hotline

by Cynthia Laird

Project Inform is seeking volunteers for its national HIV/AIDS treatment hotline, with the next training to be held starting this Wednesday, May 16 and continuing next weekend, May 19 and 20 in San Francisco.

Wednesday's session runs from 5:30 to 9 p.m.; the weekend training runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, said Mark Owens, volunteer and interim services manager for Project Inform.

Hotline operators are required to commit to at least one three-hour shift per week for a minimum of six months. The shifts occur during business hours Monday through Friday and on Saturdays.

Currently, 55 volunteers staff the hotline. They answer phone calls, provide HIV treatment information, and give callers support in developing effective treatment strategies, including how to access treatment, and provide referrals to other organizations that provide services to HIV-positive individuals.

"The training was an awesome, eye-opening experience for me," said Freddie Oaks, who had volunteered on the hotline for almost three years before becoming the hotline systems coordinator. "I thought I knew everything there was about HIV until I went through the training. And even now that I am full-time staff, I still find the hotline to be incredible and I learn something new every day."

Project Inform's hotline re-

ceives approximately 35,000 calls a year from women, men, youth, transgenders, and people of color who are HIV-positive; doctors, nurses, service providers, and social workers; and family and friends of people living with HIV. More than 30 percent of the calls received are from women; people of color account for about 35 percent of the calls.

Due to the increasing number of people seeking Spanish-language service, Project Inform encourages bilingual Spanish-English volunteers to apply.

People interested in attending the training must pre-register by calling Owens at (415) 558-8669, ext. 218 or by e-mail at [volunteer@projectinform.org](mailto:volunteer@projectinform.org). Information about Project Inform is available on the Web at [www.projectinform.org](http://www.projectinform.org). ▀

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Robert Schneider

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If you are an HIV-positive male or female, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

You must have tested for HIV-1, age 13 years or older, have had no treatment at all or have received less than 4 weeks of treatment for HIV infection. This clinical research study involves use of an investigational medication.

Participants will receive free study-related medications, physical examinations, and laboratory evaluations during the study.

For more information call (925) 687-8860 and ask to speak with Judy Harbison, R.N.

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Concord, CA 94520



## OBITUARIES

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m. Display ad obituaries must be

**Peter Lake Bellinger**  
March 23, 1947 — April 18, 2001



Peter Lake left us all too soon, in the comfort of the home he loved so much, after a brief and valiant battle with liver cancer. Special thanks for the loving hospice care given by Gerry Teitelbaum.

He leaves his life partner of nearly 23 years, Joe, his loving kitty, Guinness, a dear sweet sister, Ann and family of San Diego, Molly and Zack, Tani, Slink,

John, the Merkins, Rico and Paul, family and many friends who were really family. We will miss his wit, his temper and his refreshing, frank honesty.

Peter, born in Hawaii and raised in Palo Alto, was an incredibly gifted and talented soul. A precocious child, he produced, directed and built the sets for productions of *Aida* and *Carmen* at the tender age of 15 as well as composing music.

He was the consummate chef and loved to entertain at home. His home and gardens were his delight and palette. He worked at the Mark Twain for 12 years and left to follow his first love, composition, which he did for over 13 years.

He overcame the adversities of alcohol and managed his HIV well. He was an imperfect man always striving for perfection and he expected it from others. Peter made time to volunteer for the school system, Project Open Hand and Maitri Hospice.

A celebration of his life will be held on June 10 at 1 p.m. at the Hiram Johnson Auditorium in the California State Bldg., 455 Golden Gate. Memorials can be made to Maitri Hospice, Open Hand, or an animal rescue center.

**Jerrie Rowlond**  
December 30, 1955 — April 11, 2001

Jerrie Rowlond passed away April 11, 2001 at St. Francis Hospital of multi-function failure. Her death was sudden and unexpected. Her husband of seven years was at her side. She passed on gently. She is survived by her husband, Les Stringer, her two sisters, Nadia Allen of



Turlock, California and Carol De Rossett of N. San Juan, California, two brothers, John Rowlond and Evert Rowlond, her favorite niece Cindy Deluna Adolfo of Grass Valley, California, and many more nieces and nephews. She will be remembered by her many friends and will be greatly missed by all.

Jerrie was a resident of San Francisco for 20 some odd years and was cremated at College Park Mortuary; there was no service.

I love you, Jerrie, and will be looking for you over every horizon, and will be listening for you with every whisper of the wind until we're together again. You loving friend, lover, and husband. You were my mate!

## Longtime gay activist Bob Basker dies at 82

by Cynthia Laird

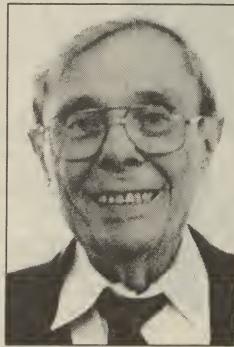
**R**obert Basker, a founding member of numerous gay organizations, died Friday, April 6, at the Jewish Home for the Aged in San Francisco after a lengthy illness. He was 82.

A founding member of the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion in San Francisco, Mr. Basker will be sorely missed by the officers and members of the veterans' community, said Mario Benfield, past commander of Post 448.

Mr. Basker founded the Mattachine Society in Chicago in 1965, and worked with leaders in the fledgling gay-rights community, including Frank Kameny, Dick Leitsch, Hal Call, Dorr Legg, Harvey Milk, and Morris Kight.

He participated in the civil rights movement, and met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as well as helped African Americans register to vote. His work against Anita Bryant's bigotry and his continued work against discrimination will long be remembered, Benfield said.

Mr. Basker remained active in several organizations, including Post 448, the NAACP-San Francisco chapter, and the California Legislative Council for Older



The late Robert Basker

Americans. Mr. Basker was affiliated with the National Organization for Women and the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Log Cabin Republicans, the Gray Panthers, and the Senior Action Network.

Benfield noted that Mr. Basker worked with his fellow Post member, Dennis Peron, in rallying for the passage of Proposition 215, the medical marijuana initiative, in 1996. "With decisive and superb influence, Bob rallied those organizations he was associated with to his side, to bolster Propo-

sition 215," said Benfield.

Born on September 30, 1918 in Harlem, Mr. Basker was the youngest of five brothers and was raised in a traditional Orthodox Jewish home. In 1941, Mr. Basker enlisted in the U.S. Army and served until 1945 in the European Theater during World War II. When the war ended, he chose to remain in Europe until 1946 and requested his discharge in Antwerp, Belgium. Having survived bombardment by U-2 rockets in his bed in which he was buried unconscious for several days, Mr. Basker survived unscathed, Benfield recalled.

He investigated the whereabouts of his Jewish relatives, ultimately finding and helping his uncle in Poland, who was a survivor of the concentration camps. Most of his relatives, however, did not survive the Holocaust.

"His critical voice will be missed, along with that of 59-cent button he always wore," said Benfield. "Our hearts are with Wayne and Melinda Basker, his two children. We also cannot forget Dino, his love of 20 years, who died in 1998."

A memorial service is planned for Sunday, July 1, from 1-5 p.m. in room 207 of the Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in San Francisco. ▼

## Nero Wolfe please note: Mother's Day orchid sale is on this weekend

by David Fraser

**A**t the mark, unveil your Laeliocattlyas, your Phalaenopsis, and especially your Odontoglossums!

Oncid Mania's 12th annual Mother's Day sale will take place this weekend in the Golden Gate Room at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco.

There's free admission and parking for the event which runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 13.

Tickets for the breakfast pre-

view on Saturday at 9 a.m. are \$20.

Even if you don't keep 10,000 orchids in a greenhouse on your roof like Nero Wolfe, the great detective created by author Rex Stout, you can still clean up at what is billed as the "world's largest orchid garage sale."

Volunteers will offer thousands of orchids for sale, plus an education table and free demonstrations on growing and caring for the flowers.

The nonprofit Oncid Mania supports grassroots AIDS prevention and education programs in the U.S., Latin America, and Southeast Asia through the sale of

orchids donated by commercial and individual growers from around the world.

The all-volunteer organization, numbering around 50, operates a 1,500 square foot commercial greenhouse in San Francisco, where it grows an extremely diverse collection of orchid plants from many countries.

The group is also hoping to offer vocational training to at-risk youth in the future.

For more information, Oncid Mania can be reached at [www.orchids.org](http://www.orchids.org) or via the information hotline, (415) 841-1678. ▼

## Hispanic

◀ page 17

most are immigrants who are very, very tolerant on gay/lesbian issues.

"If their kids are gay they have no problem with it. I've yet to see a parent from Mexico who has such a problem.

"The Latino culture is half Indian, and the Indians in Mexico revered gay people. So the mestizos [descendants of mixed ancestry] made it much more workable for gay and lesbian people in Mexico, Central, and South America."

"Many transgender Latinas come to the U.S. to earn a living. Many of them become prostitutes because they can't find other work. And

many end up going home, where they're treated fine, they're treated as a woman. The horrible thing is, they can't make a living there because of the economy and they can't make a living here because of what they are."

## Political muscle

Other reasons for the Latino response may have to do with reacting to widespread anti-immigrant feeling.

"In California, there's a very strong sign that the Latino voting population is growing and getting stronger," Teague said. "The share of has more than doubled in the last four years.

"This is very encouraging for gays and lesbians in terms of public policy, and it opens things up

for alliances we had not thought of before.

"Latinos have been the subjects of discrimination and prejudice; they know what it's about, and when they identify something [discriminatory] they will oppose it whatever form it takes."

Teague said attacks against Spanish-speaking immigrants, at the ballot box and in a larger context of prejudice, may have "awakened Hispanic people to the power of the majority against a lot of minorities."

"With voting every two years, this is put to the test," Teague said. "There's an increasing Latino presence [in voting] and there's sympathy" for gays and lesbians who also face discrimination. ▼

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# May flowers

by Jim Provenzano

Speedo Ridge, the grassy plateau along the southwest corner of Dolores Park, was packed with sunbathers, mostly gay men. It's amazing that after all these years, some spots just seem to be gay enclaves. The ridge appeared from the upper sidewalk like a buffet of bodies, tanning for the weekend partying, or perhaps recovering from it.

Many clusters of men ate lunch or gossiped between slatherings of sun block on the day I rode by bike to the park. A few even met up via cell phone by waving to each other from across the crowd. Dogs barking and the ubiquitous bell-ringing Popsicle salesmen buffered the occasional overheard "faggots" blurted by gangs of passing resentful teens. Their hate seemed to be easily brushed off like a mere fly. Nothing comforts more than the delusion of security.

There was no telling how many



## Sports Complex

would return on a weekday for more sun, what with their dot-coms bombed, their rent looming, their med beepers bleeping a bit of reality in the seemingly halcyon afternoon. Viewing parties of the latest installment of *Further Tales of the City* were possibly being arranged between clans of queers wishing to approximate the 1970s gay glory days as close as possible.

It was difficult to sit still, and I was actually reading for most of my afternoon, unlike others who use books as props between cruisy glances. Activity in the sun feels so much better, and there being no shortage of summery sporty activities, those seeking a more mobile form of sun worship are welcome to partake in any of the team and individual activities available to us.

### Run in the sun

This Sunday, May 13 - BADR 1/2 marathon. Bay Area Distance Runners is sponsoring the only half marathon oriented to gays

and lesbians, and friends that we know of in the country, here in San Francisco. Age group divisions in both running and race walking. Flat fast course around Pac Bell Park, the piers, the Embarcadero and Fisherman's Wharf, and the Hyde Street Pier. All levels are welcome. For info, visit the BADR Web site at <http://www.sfbadr.com> or call Dave at (415) 626-1380.

### Court TV (and G & L)

The Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation is a 250-plus member tennis club that just last weekend had a festive fundraising party. Although most club activities are centered in San Francisco, members live and play throughout the Bay Area. Like many GLBT sports groups, Memorial Day weekend will include a big tournament for the courtly set.

The club hosts many events for players of all levels, from novices to teaching pros. Members play year-round at courts all around the Bay Area, and also participate in dozens of club-sponsored tennis events and tournaments, such as monthly social doubles, spring and fall team tennis, the Jim Holloran Club Singles Championships, the Robert Sissenstein Club Doubles Championships, the 35's and Over Singles Championships, Compass Doubles Tournament, the Woods & Whites Social, and the year-end awards banquet. The club also hosts the United States Gay Open Tennis Tournament. The USGO tournament is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious gay tennis tournament in the world. For more info, e-mail Richard at [rflm1776@aol.com](mailto:rflm1776@aol.com) or <http://www.slip.net/~glft/> or their new address, <http://www.gltf.org>.

### Martial law

Friday, May 25 through Sunday, May 27 - Golden Gate Wrestling/IAGLMA Wrestling and Martial Arts Tournament and Clinic. Golden Gate Wrestling Club and the Bay Area chapter of the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Arts will hold a clinic and tournament with introductions, light practice, workshops, technique clinics, tournaments, and an awards din-

ner. This event will be instructional, informative, and a great intro to the sports. Several out of town athletes will be participating as well. Hosted housing available. For information, contact Johnny Almony (GG Wrestling Club) at (415) 487-8902 or via e-mail at [captain@ggwc.org](mailto:captain@ggwc.org)

or Andy McGuire (IAGLMA) at (415) 566-6121 or via e-mail at [tkdusa@aol.com](mailto:tkdusa@aol.com).

### Diamonds are jock's best friend

Softball is one of the oldest traditions in the Bay Area's sports community. This summer's biggest GLBT sports event will definitely be the Gay Softball World Series, and the 25th anniversary of the sport, August 14-18.

Find a team near you at <http://www.SFGSL.org>. Visit <http://www.nagaaa.org> to find out about the Gay World Series in 2001, or visit <http://www.sfgsl.org/worldseries/>. The games will be played at Twin Creeks in Sunnyside.

Contact Information: San Francisco Gay Softball League hotline: (415) 436-0707 or write: 584 Castro Street PMB 835, San Francisco, CA 94114.

### Flamers

"Do you know anyone who has demonstrated courage, dedication, inspiration, passion and/or a caring and giving spirit? Coca-Cola invites you to nominate inspirational people to be official torchbearers in the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay."

So goes the text of the online form to nominate ordinary folks to carry the torch to Salt Lake City, Utah for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games.

Wouldn't it be great if we flooded the nominations with LGBT athletes and supporters? Talk about a Mormon meltdown! With 13,000 miles through 46 states, and random drawings, the chances of getting a "Friend of Dorothy" to be a flamer are slim, but worth trying. I can think of a few thousand worthy nominees. Visit <http://www.coca-cola.com> or <http://SaltLake2002.com> for info.

Got a sports event coming up? Want to recruit some new members? Type it up, folks and send to [JimProv@excite.com](mailto:JimProv@excite.com). Visit <http://sportscomplex.org> for new and improved features.

## Other sports groups

### Running

#### SF Frontrunners

This social running and walking club, hosts weekly events at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park. Enjoy post-run brunches. Tuesday evening runs trek along the Embarcadero. (415) 978-2429 or (415) 668-3771.

#### East Bay Frontrunners

Usually morning events, in scenic spots around Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, and other cities. Gayle (510) 625-0908 or Robert at (510) 531-0512.

#### SF Track and Field

Forming 2002 team for Sydney, they also welcome all levels of skill and ability. Practices are held weekly (Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6 p.m., and Sunday mornings 10 a.m.) at Kesar Stadium on the southeast side of Golden Gate Park. Info: (415) 550-7966.

#### Cycling

##### Different Spokes/SF

On road and off-road adventures in cycling for this GLBT-inclusive group. Weekly rides and social events among its 300-plus membership. Write P.O. Box 14711 SF, CA 94114 or call (415) 282-1647. <http://www.dssf.org/>

#### Cycling and hiking

##### Marin Hike & Bike Club

On foot or on a Schwinn, this group throws parties, events, and sports treks of all sorts through lovely Marin County. Info: (415) 457-1115, ext. 230.

#### Just hiking

##### San Francisco Hiking Club

Most weekends throughout the year this hardy group of outdoorsfolk venture forth outwardly through SUV land to the peaks and valleys of our land. Info: (415) 487-6410.

#### Gay/Lesbian Sierrans

Dozens of hikes a month, including day hikes, overnight trips, bike rides, and conservation work parties, so you can dig in with your fellow environmentalists. Info: (415) 281-5666, or (408) 450-0402. <http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls/>

#### Bodybuilding

Discussion and tip-sharing group on the art/sport of bodybuilding. Info: (415) 550-8609.



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For additional information, please call  
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## CLASSIFIEDS

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## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248212

The following person(s) are doing business as: Silk Road Art & Fashion, 716 Monterey Blvd, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Victor Tung and Bei Bei Sheen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248127

The following person(s) are doing business as: CFL Jewelry, 888 Brannan Street #3290, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chi Fu Lo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/11/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248171

The following person(s) are doing business as: Compuswash USA, 2408 Bayshore Blvd, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hawk N. Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/13/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/13/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248153

The following person(s) are doing business as: Golden Base Asian Art, 120 Mercury Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Guo Ji Lin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/2/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/12/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.247876

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fall Sat Records, 121 Marlin Cl, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Richard L. Norris, Jr. and Lynette F. Norris. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/03/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/03/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.247915

The following person(s) are doing business as: Prosey, Proshow, 235 Montgomery Street/Suite 962, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed Lee A. Nold, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/22/87. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248008

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pacific Heights Skin Care, 200 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 509, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed Sharpi Spakes, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/06/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/06/01.

APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.320099

In the Matter of the Application of Dana Altman Loberstein, For change of Name. The application of Dana Altman Loberstein for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dana Altman Loberstein has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Linus Daniel Altman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of June, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.319727

In the Matter of the Application of Ma Khin Shwe Gyi, For change of Name. The application of Ma Khin Shwe Gyi for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ma Khin Shwe Gyi has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to San Shwe Khine. Now therefore, it is said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APRIL 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248293

The following person(s) are doing business as: MediGrow, 1306 D Galeview Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94130. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kent C. Taylor. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/19/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248244

The following person(s) are doing business as: Applied Learning Solutions, Inc. 1072 24th Street, San Francisco 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Diane Valenti, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/11/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248241

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lam Hoi Ky Restaurant, 2337 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Ty Quoc Luu and Ann Ngoc Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248337

The following person(s) are doing business as: VLP, Social Club, 5033- Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul E. Bernard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/23/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248337

The following person(s) are doing business as: VLP, Social Club, 5033- Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul E. Bernard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/23/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248296

The following person(s) are doing business as: Visage Medical Day Spa, Visage 490 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Michael Echavez, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/10/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248028

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuzu, 510 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Non Profit Organization signed Cue, Inc., JoAnne Sanchez, Director of Business Enterprises. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/16/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248028

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuzu, 2415 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Non Profit Organization signed Cue, Inc., JoAnne Sanchez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/16/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248029

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuzu, 2415 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Victoria Wei Li Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/30/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 24, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248502

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rong Li International Company, 2408 38th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Victoria Wei Li Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/30/01.

APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 24, 2001

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Chaung Tina Kee Hua, Tong Frank Sein Min. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 282 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.320679

In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Elizabeth White, For change of Name. The application of Sarah Elizabeth White for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Elizabeth White has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sarahjane Dylan White. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001

## STATEMENT FILE NO.248648

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Sandwich Shop, 635 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chong S. Chin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 4, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/04/01.

APR. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0237859-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Sandwich Shop. Located at: 635- 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. The fictitious name referred above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 1/24/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: Yun S. Lee.

MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Berkley Stephen Charles. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1081 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. Type of license Applied for:

48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES

MAY 10, 2001

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.320274

In the Matter of the Application of Brian Cash Geer, For change of Name. The application of Brian Cash Geer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Cash Geer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Cash. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.321029

In the Matter of the Application of Gregory James Sekeres, For change of Name. The application of Gregory James Sekeres for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Gregory James Sekeres has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gregory James Sekeres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Proposals #202

## Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services (The Department) announces its intent to seek proposals from agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in contracting to provide training for people interested in becoming foster parents.

The Department is seeking a qualified provider to offer a carefully designed, established curriculum to prospective foster parents. The placement of a child with caring and knowledgeable foster parents is a crucial component of a family's permanency plan, whether that plan calls for reunification, placement with kin, long term foster care, or adoption. Foster parents may be called on at any time during a child's involvement with the foster care system to play the role of parent while a child's biological family sorts through the issues that caused the child's removal in the first place.

Children entering foster care have been traumatized, not just by maltreatment, but by the subsequent removal from their home, even if that home was not a safe place for them. Foster parents need specialized training in order to cope with these emotional needs of children in foster care, and may also need training around the basics of parenting, from learning how to enroll a child in school to providing nutrition appropriate for children.

Children in foster care also come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, and speak many different languages. It is therefore ideal to recruit and train foster parents from as many different backgrounds as possible, and to provide training for them that is culturally competent. The Department will work closely with the successful respondent to this RFP to implement an established curriculum, refer foster parents to it, and see that training classes are offered in a clean and comfortable setting.

The contract period will run from 7/1/01 to 6/30/02 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Wednesday May 2, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on May 14 at 2:00 PM at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, San Francisco. For further information, call Susan Schorr at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is June 8, 2001 by 5:00 PM.

City and County of San Francisco  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Qualifications #201

## Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to coordinate the efforts of the Green Book Initiative, a collaborative of public and private agencies working to establish supports and services for families experiencing domestic violence and child maltreatment. The Contractor will be responsible for coordinating the interdepartmental planning process around this initiative, as well as the implementation of plans developed.

The contract period will run from 7/1/01 to 6/30/02 for an amount to be determined.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Friday, April 20, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will also be available on the internet at <http://civiccenter.ci.sf.ca.us/purchase/pbids.nsf>, click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 1 at 3:00 PM at 170 Otis, 8th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang at 415-557-5585. Due date for response is Thursday May 24, 2001 at 5:00 PM.

Department of Human Services  
Request for Qualifications #201

BAY AREA REPORTER

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**BAY AREA REPORTER**

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## FURTHER INTO THE FOG BELT

**'ARMISTEAD MAUPIN'S FURTHER TALES OF THE CITY'***The coolish Armistead Maupin's *Further Tales of the City**

by Will Shank



Pat Harron / Showtime

**A**merica's dimpled sweetheart Mary Ann Singleton appears buck naked in *Further Tales of the City*, premiering on Showtime every Sunday this month.

"I think some people may be startled with that very first scene with Laura [Linney]," Armistead Maupin told me during a recent interview at his Parnassus Heights home. "It lets you know our girl has come a ways. They all get buck naked at one point or another. I imagine that Billy Campbell scene will wear

out the freeze-frame on an awful lot of VCRs."

Yes indeed, the third television installment of Maupin's trail-blazing *Tales of the City* novels, which started life as a 1970s serial in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, definitely exposes its cast in many ways more than just emotionally. Some of the scenes are downright shocking, I admitted with a blush to the author, who is also co-screenwriter of *Further Tales*. Among these is a glory hole episode wherein Paul Hopkins, as our gay hero Michael "Mouse" Tolliver, gets off in a public bath-

room. At my embarrassment, Maupin laughed uproariously. "It's quite shocking, isn't it? I really wanted to make people who understood that situation squirm. And I realized that it was a legitimate addition, because it did truly reflect my own recreational activities 20 years ago." The series has come a long way from the original PBS series *Tales of the City* in 1993, when a passionate kiss in a red convertible between Michael (Marcus d'Amico) and Dr. Jon Fielding (Campbell) seemed

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**SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS**





# Formal permutations of love

Paris Opéra Ballet dances Preljocaj's 'Le Parc' at War Memorial

by Stephanie von Buchau

**S**ex without love and love without sex are probably the norm. Yet the ideal is still a combination of the two, something we rarely experience in life or on stage. That leaves Anjelin Preljocaj's *Le Parc*, which had its San Francisco premiere last Friday, as the most amazing dance about the possibilities of ideal love-and-sex that I've ever seen.

Part of the exchange between San Francisco Ballet (just about to visit Paris' Palais Garnier) and the venerable Paris Opéra Ballet (the oldest company in the world, dating back to the Sun King's 1661 Royal Academy of Dance), the Preljocaj piece was not anticipated by me, at least. His *Landscape after the Battle* a few months ago demonstrated misogynistic, post-modern despair about love and sex. Impossible to unite, he seemed to say. It's really about power and killing. Ugh.

Using three famous French novels — Madeleine de Scudéry's *La Clélie* (1654); Mme. de Lafayette's *La Princesse de Clèves* (1678); and Choderlos de Laclos' *Les Liaisons dangereuses* (1782) — as his starting point, Preljocaj explores the permutations of love and sex through a formal romp in a garden (*le parc*) extracted from the "Map of Attraction" in Scudéry's novel.

In *Le Parc*, Preljocaj has jettisoned his fashionable postmodern despair and no longer assumes that love is not possible and sex is merely an amusing way to pass time. (Although *Landscape* dates from 1997 and *Le Parc* from 1994, suggesting he may have gone from hope to despair instead of the other way around.) He isn't, however, a consistent enough choreographer to animate his theme for the entire 100-minute, intermissionless three-act ballet. Yet he comes through at the end of each act with a *pas de deux* for the leading couple that leads to complete

physical and psychic surrender. These duets are so potent — and were so potently danced by Elisabeth Maurin and Manuel Legris — that at the end, an anonymous woman in the orchestra seats made a graphic sound that would not have been out of place in her bedroom.

## All together now

Except for the obvious fugue in the opening corps number (the music is by Mozart; the sound score by Goran Vejvoda), Preljocaj

phisticated Legris (much more attractive here than as the selfish Solor at opening night's *La Bayadère*), but when he shows interest in turn, she spurns him.

The second *pas de deux*, after he has been nuzzling a nubile blond half Maurin's age, is titled "Resistance" (the andante from the Piano Concerto no. 15). Now she is *en prise*, but he has doubts about commitment. He runs his hand down her face and throat to her stomach, then suddenly turns away. He repeats the gesture. She

bodies. They cuddle, they nestle, they roll over each other on the floor. She runs at him and leaps like a ball into his arms. He lifts her with his hand firmly planted between her thighs, but if you are thinking Michael Smuin or Gerry Arpino smut, forget it. This relationship is now beyond the mechanics of sex. The movements Preljocaj has devised and the way the dancers execute them provide both innocence and erotic power. They are literally a "couple," a single being so attuned that there is



Paris Opéra Ballet in Anjelin Preljocaj's *Le Parc*: corps numbers set as massed unisons.

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photo of original Broadway cast by Paul Kolnik

is unable to stop from setting corps numbers as massed unisons. When every dancer is doing the same thing all the time, with little or no counterpoint, you don't know where to look, so the temptation is to close your eyes. I also found the four "gardeners" (dressed in black, with work aprons) tedious, except that the choreographer needed them for the work's most spooky sequence — "Dream," where they manipulate the sleeping Maurin. It's spookily similar to Julia Adam's *Night*.

It isn't until the end of each short act that Maurin and Legris work out a romantic détente. Their first duet, "Encounter" (to the andantino from Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 14), is tentative, flirtatious, hostile, a seeming dead-end. Dressed like a man in cream-colored Mozart drag, Maurin is interested in the cool, so-

tries it on him, but half-heartedly. He rolls around her body with his head, under her arm, over her back and neck, down her sides. But they can't connect, and at that point I thought we were in for more fashionable angst; I should have trusted Preljocaj.

After Maurin's dream, she and Legris come together for "Abandonment" (adagio from Piano Concerto no. 23). This is not "My man done gone" abandonment, but total physical and emotional abandonment to the power of sex and love entwined. Both have shed their formal clothes. He's in knee breeches and loose shirt; she's in an 18th-century nightie, so short it reveals a flesh-colored leotard (worn with bare legs).

This duet conjured an image of a pair of kittens, unselfconscious in their physical play. Both of them rub their faces and the tops of their heads on each other's

no separating them.

The dancers are superb. Bless the Parisians for not shunning their senior ballerinas. Both Maurin (38) and Fanny Gaida (40), who danced Nikiya in the Paris Opéra Ballet's opening night *La Bayadère*, are women "of a certain age," and the lines on their faces proclaim it proudly. (I kept thinking how much more beautiful Jeanne Moreau got as she aged.) Besides, no sweet young thing would be able to abandon herself to a man's embrace as significantly yet unselfconsciously as Maurin did.

I have no idea if Preljocaj is gay, but I wouldn't be surprised. Few straight male choreographers (is that an oxymoron?) could get inside a woman's typically hopeless (at least in real life) dream of a love relationship that is exactly what this one becomes at the end of *Le Parc* — violent, tender, all-consuming, liberating. ▼

## Colored Boys

◀ previous page

For a poem titled "The Last of Her," for example, we first see a drag performer (marvelously essayed by Cedric Brown) lip syncing to Jennifer Holliday's *Dreamgirls* aria, and it's both a comic evocation and a passionate rendering of the song. But this fraying diva falters in the clutch, which leads the other cast members to perform White's sympathetic but unsentimentalized eulogy for a passing era.

Even a subtle change in tone, lighting, and body language can provide theatricality. In "Making Some Black History," White uses a laundry list of civil-rights imagery

to create the kind of double entendres once heard in old blues songs. At first the audience laughs at the erotic objectification of such icons as the Underground Railroad, but what seems an irreverent satire morphs into a heart-felt longing for black-on-black connection.

Not all of the poetry packaging works. Setting a piece about a gay man recalling the wake for his late lover in an otherwise straight bereavement group, leading the other members to mug their disapproval, evokes laughter that distracts from what the poem is really about. And not all of the selections were born to be on a stage, causing energies to occasionally flag.

In addition to Brown, the cast

includes Derek Lassiter, Andre dos Santos Morgan, Duran Rutledge, and Marlon M. Bailey, and besides finding individual moments to shine, they work together smoothly in spoken work, song, and movement.

Though rooted in the gay African-American experience, *For Colored Boys...* is an accessible work more about feelings than politics. White's poetry has a heart that beats with irony, confidence, and affection. ▼

**For Colored Boys... who have considered s-curls when the hot comb was enuf will run at Theatre Rhino through June 2. Tickets are \$12-\$20. Call 861-5079.**

# Passion & the Victorians

*'Cloud 9'* revival still packs punch

by Richard Dodds

The sexual revolution is over. England won," says the title character in the '90s comedy *Jeffrey* as he renounces sex rather than deal with its modern complications. Back in 1980, before the revolution was undermined by AIDS, English playwright Caryl Churchill created a play fueled by the disappearing restraints on sexual behavior. It might seem that *Cloud 9* was a play of a moment that has passed, but that's not at all the case.

Even as its characters are discovering new possibilities in relationships — and not just playing at *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice* games — they are also confronting the often unnerving ramifications of this freedom. It's not hard to imagine how HIV would eventually take its place in this group's ongoing journey.

These thoughtful underpinnings are evident in the play's first San Francisco production in several years, and though some of the laughs as lost due to a questionable casting choice, *Cloud 9* is foremost a comedy that has found stylish life at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

Churchill constructed the play in two parts that are set in very different worlds and told in very different styles. Even so, the acts imaginatively complement each other while underscoring the characters' journey.

In the first act, the characters are found as a proper Victorian family living as colonialists in Africa. But beneath the decorous surface seethes all manner of passions, repressions, and frustrations.

In almost slapstick fashion, like Feydeau farce with a social agenda, we see how Clive, the rigid father, lusts after an independent-minded widow while insisting that his wife, Betty, play the role of the little woman. She in turn is aroused by a robust explorer, but he's more interested in spending time with the couple's son, Edward, who distresses his father by playing with his little sister's dolls. Meanwhile, the family governess is secretly in love with the wife, and a native servant disguises his contempt with unctuous loyalty. To further compound the permutations, the wife is played by a man, the son by a woman, and the daughter by a rag doll.

## Century roles

The second act moves the action to London 100 years later, although the returning characters have only aged 25 years (and are, with one comic-relief exception, played by actors of the proper gender). The tone is more reflective and realistic, yet still entertaining, as the characters confront their changing situations in a changing world.

Betty is now alone, cautiously but excitedly exploring a new sense of self-worth. Her son, Edward, has just ended a relationship with a bloke who'd rather cruise the parks than stay at home. "I think I'm a lesbian," Edward de-

clares as he sets up housekeeping with his sister, Victoria, now separated from her priggish husband, and her new female lover.

On some levels, *Cloud 9* really is like two plays requiring distinct styles. Director Arturo Catricala has pulled off this duality, though the stylized first act is more confidently performed than the more natural dynamics of the second.

For most part, the actors skillfully play radically different characters. Most startlingly, Kenny Neal Shultz begins the play by finding humanity in Betty, a comic-book version of the perfect Victorian wife, before believably becoming Gerry, a leather-clad gay bloke with a penchant for casual sex. Other effective transformations include John-Michael Beck as a trouble-making native servant and a bratty little girl; Megan Towl as doll-playing Edward and his lesbian sister; Patricia Miller as Betty's disapproving mother and Victoria's feisty lover; Tiffany Hoover as the repressed

governess, the independent widow, and the newly liberated Betty; and Jeff Larson as the sexually conflicted explorer and Victoria's passive-aggressive husband.

The main obstacle to fuller satisfaction with this production is Lee Corbett's mannered, actorish performances as the tradition-bound husband of the first act and his sensitive gay son of the second act. Corbett plays husband Clive with the doddering harumphing bluster of someone twice his age, while playing Edward with a boyishness that looks foolish on someone of Corbett's age. The artifice is just too great in both cases.

It's a problem, but not one that ultimately capsizes the enjoyment of once again encountering the serious fun of *Cloud 9*. ▼

*Cloud 9* will run through June 30 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.



John-Michael Beck in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud 9*

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# From gay teen to knight superstar

Heath Ledger jousts in 'A Knight's Tale'

by Tim Nasson

**T**hough *A Knight's Tale* is only the third film 21-year-old Perth, Australia native Heath Ledger has starred in, it seems that he is off to an auspicious Hollywood career and is following in the heels of some other very successful Down Under movie heroes gone American. "It's not as amazing as it seems," Ledger said when I asked him how he explains the sudden rise in popularity of Australian and New Zealand actors in America.

"You have Academy Award winners Russell Crowe, Mel Gibson, Geoffrey Rush and nominee Cate Blanchett, and maybe a handful of other Australian or New Zealand actors who have made it in Hollywood, and immediately everyone in America begins to say, 'What is in the water down there that is producing so many great movie stars?' Well, yes, those stars are fantastic, but there are only a few who have made it so successfully from there in relation to all the great actors that continue to come out."

You may remember Ledger as the oldest son of Mel Gibson from last summer's hit Civil War period piece, *The Patriot*. A lot has changed in one year for Ledger, who has gone from supporting actor to top billing in two years and three movies. His first film, *10 Things I Hate About You*, was an ensemble retelling of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*.

With *A Knight's Tale*, Ledger keeps his tradition of playing in period pieces. In it, he is William Thacker, a fearless, sometimes foolhardy 14th-century young man who decides to impersonate a knight. Coming from nowhere, he becomes a superstar, to the sounds of thunderous hoofbeats, the rising roar of the crowd, and most remarkably, an infusion of popular music that releases a lot of energy. And not popular 14th-century music. Think Queen, Elvis Presley, David Bowie and AC/DC, set to the theme of joust-

ing tournaments.

Academy Award-winning screenwriter (*LA Confidential*) Brian Helgeland has crafted *A Knight's Tale*, loosely based on *The Canterbury Tales*, into a medieval classic for the new millennium.

Filmed primarily in the ancient-looking city of Prague, *A Knight's Tale* came in at a budget of less than \$40 million. Not much money by today's Hollywood standards, where movies such as the soon-to-be-released *Pearl Harbor* required over \$200 million of Disney's money.

"Playing William allowed me to present a smorgasbord of emotions and looks," said Ledger. "I start off as a pauper with dreadlocks, and end up looking like I do on the poster for the film and becoming a real knight, all the while looking for my father who abandoned me, trying to find true love, and fighting for my life."

This past winter, Ledger was named ShoWest's Star of Tomorrow. Past winners of that honor have included Matt Damon, Drew

Barrymore and Jodie Foster. "I don't make much of the award," exclaimed Ledger. "ShoWest and their awards are all for the studios."

## Smoking gun

Walking into a suite at The Four Seasons in Beverly Hills, Ledger puffed away on a cigarette, then another and another.

"I think it was contingent on everyone in the movie to smoke," he laughed. "Every actor in the film smoked, even the ones from America."

Ledger was on a horse for much of his latest film. He explained how, in one scene, he almost lost a body part. "Yeah. In one jousting scene, I was getting ready to ride along the long beam. For some reason, the horse took off before I expected him to, and my leg was almost torn off. The horse went too close to the beam and actually crashed into it and broke it. If I had not lifted my leg at the exact moment that I did, I would only have one leg now."



Egon Endrenyi

Yummy Heath Ledger as knight wannabe William Thacker

"Thanks to the director [Brian Helgeland], we got to Prague two months early. He told the execs at Columbia Pictures that the actors needed to get there early to learn how to ride. The thing is, though, we did hardly any training. We drank every night and got to know

each other very well and became something of a family," he says.

"This ride, my career thus far, is surreal. It's scary and exciting at the same time. I had only made two movies up to *A Knight's Tale*, and since then I have done three

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# The draughtsman's contract

'The Mystery of Picasso' at the Castro Theatre

by Will Shank

**T**he *Mystery of Picasso* (*Le Mystère Picasso*), playing the Castro Theatre May 11-17, was declared a "national treasure" by the French government in 1984, but like other things French — escargot, for example — it is not for everyone. Director Henri-Georges Clouzot was riding high on a wave of popularity in 1956, when *Picasso* was released. His thrillers *The Wages of Fear* and *Diabolique* had met with great critical and popular acclaim in 1953 and 1955 respectively, earning him the unofficial title of the French Hitchcock.

For years, legend has it, the director and his neighbor Pablo Picasso had wanted to make a documentary together. But they did not want to make something traditional, with voiceover curatorspeak telling the audience what to look at as Picasso painted. The result of their collaboration, filmed on a sound stage in Nice in the summer of 1955, is a curious amalgamation of a sort of animated film and a self-important documentary ode to both the artist and the director.

The first few minutes are magical. Before your very eyes, brushstrokes in bold colors appear on a white screen, and a Picasso ink drawing is created, seemingly by you, as Picasso is nowhere in sight! The white screen reappears,

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'It's still a thrill to see Picasso in action.'

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# Just another aging homosexual cannibal

Tobias Schneebaum returns to the Amazonian jungle in 'Keep the River...'

by David Lamble

I'm in a hotel room with a sweet little old man, a man my mother's age. We're not alone. At the age of 80, Tobias Schneebaum has acquired a bit of a retinue, a lover, a hit film about his life, and some very smart young people who, when his mind wanders from my questions, jump in with the answers.

"In 1955, Tobias Schneebaum disappeared in the Peruvian Amazon. One year later, he walked out of the jungle, naked and covered in body paint. It took him 45 years to go back." Reduced to those simple sentences, Schneebaum's life reads like a pitch for a high-concept Hollywood action film. What on earth was he thinking of, what was he looking for, and what happened that caused him so much delight and yet made him fear for his sanity? *Keep the River on Your Right: A Modern Cannibal Tale* opens May 11 in the Bay Area.

When he made his first trip into the jungle in the mid-'50s, Schneebaum was a shy Jewish man in his mid-30s who had gained a small reputation in the New York art world (enough to snag a Fulbright grant to take a year off in the Andes) and a famous friend or two (novelist Norman Mailer lived next door in an East Village coldwater flat). He was also gay, believed himself to be ugly, and was deeply unhappy with the course his life was taking. "I was bored with the art scene. Not because I was a bad painter, because there are plenty of bad painters who are famous."

Schneebaum would later claim to be searching for inner peace as well as some connection to the men who both fascinated and terrified him. Both of these he would find with an Amazon tribe in an obscure place called Macchu Picchu, which he found by following the instruction to "keep the river on your right."

Since he wasn't a professional anthropologist, Schneebaum was free to break one of that profession's classic rules and "go native." He seems to have been adopted by the men of the Arakmbut tribe as a kind of mascot plaything. Schneebaum loved being included in the Arakmbut's male sexual rituals, and tribe members found it amusing to take this funny white guy (who was clueless about shooting a long bow) along on their hunting parties. Schneebaum didn't quite realize what he was getting into, until one day his tribe conducted a raid on a neighboring village. In a few horrific moments, six people were dead, their flesh dismembered and rolled up in leafy plants later to be cooked and devoured by members of his war party. Many years later Schneebaum would write, "I am a cannibal. That four-word sentence doesn't leave my head."

Schneebaum's account of his Peruvian adventures in his book *Keep the River on Your Right* ignited a media feeding frenzy. Later he would dryly observe, "It was easier to talk about cannibalism than homosexuality."

## In deepest Manhattan

Forty years later, Schneebaum is quietly living in an art-cluttered studio apartment in Greenwich Village, supplementing his Social Security checks with cruise-ship talking tours, when the phone



Tobias Schneebaum with the Arakmbut tribe: 'I am a cannibal. That four-word sentence doesn't leave my head.'

rings. David and Laurie Gwen Shapiro are a brother/sister filmmaking team who had stumbled across a copy of *Keep the River on Your Right* in a second-hand bookstore.

David Shapiro says they couldn't n't believe their luck. "We read it. We thought, 'This is the real *Heart of Darkness*.' But we thought the guy's got to be dead and the book's got to be out of print. We were wrong on both counts. We looked in the phone book just on a hunch: where else could he possibly live but New York, if he were alive?"

Before they met him, Shapiro said he and his sister had an image of Schneebaum in their heads. "We sort of envisioned that anyone who could make that kind of trip had to be a kind of buff, machismo, Mutual of Omaha explorer. When we went over to Tobias's apartment, he [turned out to be] the gay, charming version of our father. We were shocked and delighted. That [visit] told us then and there that this was a film that was going to shatter preconceptions about explorers and sexuality. We knew we had to make this film."

Laurie Shapiro said their original idea to write a screenplay based on Schneebaum's jungle adventures fell away when they started taping his stories and turned up some incredible video documentation of his '60s media splash. Realizing that because of Schneebaum's frail health (bouts of Parkinson's disease and three hip replacements) they had to work fast, the Shapiros took the plunge "into the black hole of independent documentary filmmaking" without the slightest idea of how they were going to pay for it all.

Finding one angel to fund a trip to Indonesia, where Schneebaum was movingly reunited with an old tribal lover, the Shapiros realized that the heart and soul of any theatrical film would be to convince Schneebaum to return, 45 years later, to the Peruvian jungle village. Laurie Shapiro notes that Schneebaum "had these conflicting notions of joy and love for this tribe, but also, I guess, some kind of shame for his experiences there." Shapiro adds that all of Schneebaum's friends and family opposed the idea of dragging this frail old man back to Peru. After months of waiting, finally the call came from Schneebaum, "Yes, I'm willing to go."

## Jungle law

He'd once written, "The jungle

either accepts you or rejects you. Did it accept me, or did I accept it?" Today, Schneebaum concedes, "I had a need to go back and see if I could find a way to get rid of the demons that were inside me." He adds that he feared what he would see when he viewed the once beautifully naked tribesmen dressed up in cast-off clothing from the West. "We can't adjust to them, it's always that they have to adjust to what Westerners say. There are so many missionaries in the world..." Schneebaum's sentence trails off, but his meaning is clear.

David Shapiro says that one of

Schneebaum's virtues has been acknowledging the effect his visits have had on so-called "primitive" tribes, forsaking the professional doctrine of neutrality that has kept many anthropologists from admitting to the impact their sci-

ence has had on the peoples they've studied.

Schneebaum's greatest joy was reuniting with Apit, the Indonesian tribesman lover he had met in the '70s. Apprehensive that this dear friend must be dead by now, Schneebaum confesses how moved he was by a simple gesture Apit performed during the preparations for filming. Apit, in front of the camera, leaned over and kissed me on the cheek. It was a really thrilling moment."

Ironically, the great joy in Schneebaum's life these days is that he no longer sleeps alone. Joel Singer notes that he met Schneebaum in the early '80s when Singer was in a longterm relationship with the poet James Broughton. Upon Broughton's death last year, Singer called Schneebaum. "We became lovers about 6 months ago, on a trip to New York. We went out for dinner, and I pretty much haven't left."

Schneebaum adds, "We're sharing the same bed now, and I never thought that would happen in my life." ▼

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# Unmatched joy and prize winners

Picano's 'Onyx' is the latest in a strong year for gay literature

by Deborah Peifer

What a year this has been for queer letters. Here we are, only partway through May, and my Top 10 list is already half-full. We've had three great novels by writers from whom we've come to expect excellence, and they have not disappointed. From Emma Donoghue's historical *Slammerkin* (Virago) to Michael Nava's *Rag and Bone* (Putnam) and Edith Forbes' *Navigating the Darwin Straits* (Seal), this new millennium is a raderly extravaganza. Add to this largesse a new novel by Felice Picano, and we readers can happily call this a golden year.

*Onyx* (Alyson, \$24.95) is Picano's latest novel, and it is an ex-

traordinary exploration of a relationship between two men. Ray is a successful music producer who wonders whether his life will have any meaning when his lover of 12 years, Jesse, dies. Jesse is on his own journey, as he tries both to accept his own imminent death and to prepare his great love, Ray, for that death. Jesse is sick enough that he and Ray can no longer sleep in the same room, let alone the same bed, and in his time alone, drifting between consciousness and slumber, he makes astonishing discoveries.

Listening to the sounds from the kitchen of Ray's cooking, Jesse recalls meals and moments he and Ray have shared. "If this was all, all life offered, Jesse found himself thinking before he subsided back



into the mysteriously inviting Tantalus of lush pillow and sheets that yet never brought rest, I'd take it — have taken it, haven't I — but I'll take it, even take it from here, a room apart, without a sight of him, just his sounds, from a tousled bed, from this fugue of sleep, this dreaming life, forever."

Reading about this wonderful relationship, I found myself thinking that we'd have to be crazy to settle for anything less than this depth of feeling, this harmonious joining of kindred spirits.

Don't think that *Onyx* is mere romance, although it is that, gloriously. Picano offers a look at gay life in the last decade, and he shows us the varieties of queer experience through the eyes of a remarkable collection of characters. There's Mike, a married man who finds Ray irresistible, and learns there's lots more to a sexual life than the missionary position with a woman, and J. K., Ray's friend who gives a whole new meaning to the word flamboyant. And then there's Jesse's mother, possibly the most evil bitch in the history of literature. No kidding, compared to Adele Moody, Simon Legree was Mister Nice Guy. What is so impressive about Picano's absolute mastery of the craft of fiction is that each of these characters is entirely individual, com-

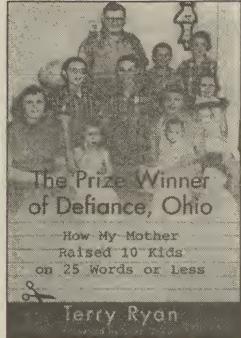
pletely credible, absolutely unforgettable. That mastery extends to plot as well. *Onyx* is rich with subplots, and each is fully realized and seamlessly woven into the fabric of the narrative. *Onyx* is an unforgettable novel, one that will have you weeping and laughing and reveling in the unmatched joy of a loving relationship. Don't miss it.

## Winners all around

Terry Ryan is the writing half of cartoonist T.O. Sylvester, whose witty cartoons once graced the Chronicle's Book Review. In her first foray into writing something longer than a caption, Ryan gives us a memoir of her family that is funny, moving, entertaining, and empowering. *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less* (Simon & Schuster, \$24.95) tells the remarkable tale of Evelyn Ryan, a woman who took life's lemons and constructed an exquisite soufflé. Evelyn's husband was an alcoholic, and in the 1940s, Catholic women did not leave their husbands. "Lovelorn columnists ... preached that a wife should quit complaining and learn to love her husband better so he wouldn't feel neglected and turn to drink. ... Mom chuckled openly at this idea. To her, the world's blind deference to the man of the house was a grand mistake that we should blithely ignore."

If her husband drank most of his paycheck, she would find a way to feed her children. With a family of ten kids, going out to work was not an option, so Evelyn used her skill with words to win contests, and in so doing, taught her children never to give up.

Ryan weaves her mother's contest entries and light verse into a family tale of one woman's heroic efforts to cope with life's vicissitudes. She captures the chaos of a household full of very active children with grace and good humor. Ryan never makes light of her fa-



ther's abuse, but the heart of this fine memoir is the power of a woman determined to do right by her family. Evelyn Ryan loved words and what they could do if chosen with care and arranged with skill. Her daughter clearly has inherited her mother's gift. *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* is a delightful read.

## Literary miscellany

Congratulations to Michael Nava, who joins such gay literati as John Rechy, Armistead Maupin, Joan Nestle, and Audre Lord as recipient of the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, in recognition of his extraordinary body of work.

Sarah Schulman (*People In Trouble, Rat Bohemia*) reads from her novel-in-progress *The Mere Future* on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library. Can't get enough of her? Brava! For Women in the Arts hosts a staged reading of Schulman's new play, *The Child*, at the Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street (at York, in the Mission) on May 21 at 8 p.m. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

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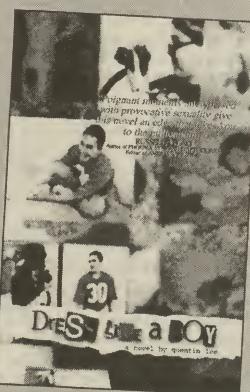
# Asian ennui

by Robert Julian

*Dress Like a Boy* by Quentin Lee; Writer's Club Press, \$11.95

**D**ress Like a Boy, Quentin Lee's first novel, is a tale of Bay Area alienation. This self-published work illuminates the life of Edward Ng, a 21-year-old student who is finishing his last year at UC Berkeley. Edward attempts to balance an affair with the bisexual David and a longing for his own closeted cousin, Victor. These separate entanglements are permeated with Edward's adult reaction to a repressed childhood in the home of his Chinese aunt and uncle, and his general sense of alienation.

The author's greatest success is his depiction of Edward's overall malaise: a wistful longing for something outside of himself combined with a slightly paranoid edge. Edward's Asian American roots, and that community's strong sense of propriety, complicate his coming out as a gay man. His emotional insecurity goes back to the day when the 11-year-old Edward's Hong Kong mother sent him to live with his American extended family. A good student,



blessed with seemingly unlimited financial resources, Edward remains chronically unhappy.

Quentin Lee's prose is spare, detached, and generally effective in communicating his central character's dilemma. But the novel would benefit from more three-dimensional supporting characters (especially those who are female) and a stronger editorial hand. There are several errors in usage, usually involving pronouns or prepositions, that a good editor would correct. But these minor technical inadequacies do not diminish the overall impact of the work. Edward is spoiled, selfish, and confused, but his perceptions are keen. The author provides his central character with the rich, multicultural Bay Area as the milieu for his urban ennui, and he reflects the unique perspective of the young Asian American gay man. This first novel deserves the attention of young men like Edward, or those who wish to learn about them.

Author Quentin Lee is also a filmmaker. His third feature film, *Drift*, will debut at this year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in June. ▼

## Further Tales

◀ Arts cover

like the height of television homo-eroticism.

Did he think he was pushing it too far, with the liberties available to the filmmakers at the "No Limits" cable channel Showtime? "The scene between the cop Bill Rivera (Randy Thomas) and Michael Tolliver originally opened on the cop's ass and a very large, shaved scrotum. But it was cut when somebody at the 'No-Limits' channel decided that there was a limit! And it was sphincters and scrotums."

When I noted that I spotted a number of scrotums in *Further Tales*, he added, "Actually, we do have a fairly good scrotal count, that's true. But that big old muscular butthole was too much for the brass. I was very sorry to lose that, because I loved that shot! You can't tell exactly what you're looking at, and then the camera pulls back and you go, 'Oh my God!'"

### High society

But the sensational aspects of San Francisco's swinging, sexually liberated, pre-AIDS era are only a small part of the action of *Further Tales*. The cast of sweet, goofy, marijuana-altered, misguided, wise, libidinous and innocent characters arrives intact from the previous Showtime production, *More Tales of the City*, filmed four years ago. One of the great pleasures is the actress who plays Prue Giroux in one of the less believable plotlines, an affair between a socialite and a homeless man in Golden Gate Park. Mary Kay Place appeared only briefly in previous episodes as a faintly ridiculous middle-aged socialite whose most memorable moment was her "Let's Rap About Rape" scene. Place, a talented actress who has not had the career that she deserves, finally gets a chance to shine in *Further Tales*. She'll always be Mary Hartman's next-door neighbor, the folk-singing Loretta Haggars, to me.

Maupin acknowledges the ridiculousness of the Prue character. But Place is such a thorough actress that when she found out that Prue was faintly inspired, shall we say, by Pat Montandon, she asked if she could meet her. So I called Montandon, and she was quite gracious about it, and we went over and had tea at her house just over the hill in the next valley. The two of them hit it off like a house afire. They were both from Oklahoma, have airy-fairy spiritual concerns, and are gracious, gregarious people.

"Now that I know who this woman is, I'm really concerned about how to portray her!" said Place. "She's doing some really crazy things, but she's shown to be a decent person in spite of the ridiculous nature of her adventures."

The *Mary Hartman* connection runs deeper than Place's role in *Tales*. "I sold *Tales* to the *Chron-*



Paul Hopkins as Michael Tolliver, Billy Campbell as Jon Fielding

oughly unlikely character Luke (Henry Czerny), a mysterious homeless man, also grew out of Maupin's reality. "Sometime in the late '70s, I stumbled onto a homeless man living in a lean-to at the base of Telegraph Hill. He invited me in for a cup of coffee. He had a cot, and he claimed to be there doing earthquake research. He said he was studying the behavior of small animals. He was a former Merchant Seaman in his 40s, with about two teeth in his head. Like something out of Mark Twain."

"I would make my way several days a week down this little secret path down through the garden of the Greenwich steps to his lean-to, and we'd have wonderful conversations. I was dying to write about him of course, but I didn't want to blow his cover, so I changed the location of the shack to Golden Gate Park, and created a new identity for him. But the idea of a socialite having an affair with a charismatic homeless man grew out of my own friendship with Olin Cobb, his name was."

"Eventually, he was discovered when those yuppie condos got put in down there. They forced him to leave, and he became a bit of a local celebrity in the newspaper. Periodically he'd send me postcards and tell me where he had relocated."

### Career moves

Perhaps the most difficult challenge of *Further Tales*, the book and the movie, was to keep Mary Ann likable. By the time of the third installment, she has become a self-involved, ambitious character. How do you overcome that quality in your protagonist? "I always think of that as a later development in Mary Ann myself, but a



Laura Linney as Mary Ann

lot of readers have said, 'I knew she was a bitch from the moment she rejected Connie Bradshaw!'

"Mary Ann was my caveat to myself," Maupin said. "Mary Ann was my way of telling myself, 'Don't let ambition and fame take you someplace you don't want to be.' I was always flirting with the power-hungry side of Mary Ann. At least I hope she remains sympathetic, because that ambition gets her into terrible trouble! She ends up having to bury a body to get out of a mess! There's not a moment throughout the series in which her ambition and her manipulative nature don't blow up in her face!"

"I've always seen *Tales of the City* as a morality play," Maupin said. "I used to laugh at the notion promulgated by the Rev. Donald Wildman that this is an immoral work. *Tales* is more moral than most things in popular culture because it does have an attitude about right and wrong, and it tries to fall out on the side of compassion and generosity and love." ▼

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## A Knight's Tale

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more. I have worked six days a week for 18 straight months."

Making movies is quite a stretch from Ledger's initial stint in acting. "Doing television in Australia was a lot easier. There was no traveling involved. I actually played the first gay teen on Australian television when I was 16," he said proudly. "That was my first big role, the role that got me noticed in my country. I moved from Perth to Sydney to do that

television show."

I noticed a distinctive-looking piece of jewelry around Ledger's neck while we were chatting, and as he was about to leave, I asked him about it. "Oh, this," he said, pointing to the necklace made of string and shells. "Djimon Hounsou put that on me during a scene in the Miramax movie *Four Feathers* that we just finished making. I haven't taken it off yet. I guess it has become a part of me." ▼

*A Knight's Tale* opens wide on Friday, May 11.

# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare by Mark Mardon



Pamela Z with butoh dancers Leigh Evans, Kinji Hayashi, and Shinichi Momo Koga perform *Gaijin* at Theater Artaud.

## Much ado

Don't ever let anyone get away with declaring there's nothing to do in this town. Maybe that would be the case if your primary interest was fiddle music at outdoor festivals attended mainly by leathermen and women, but even then you'd only go through droughts, not famine.

This week's calendar is jam-packed with cultural events both of mass appeal and targeted to various segments of the transgender, bisexual, lesbian and gay community. Let me just point to a few that appeal to all audiences, including us. We are everywhere, after all.

The San Francisco World Music Festival kicks off on Wednesday, May 9, with a free master class at SF State University: "Music of the Turkic Peoples," presented by Kutay Derin Kugay. That takes place in the Creative Arts Bldg., Room 154, at 4pm.

The festival, presented by Door Dog Music Productions, showcases some 25 different performance groups from May 9 through June 3 at SFSU, club Ashkenaz in Berkeley (1317 San Pablo Ave.), the Elbo Room in SF (647 Valencia St. @ 17th St.), and finally at Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center. It's your opportunity to experience the musical flavors of Persia, China, Lebanon, North & South India, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Africa, Azerbaijan, Japan, Indonesia and Brazil, among other nations.

This week's other festival offerings include a discussion of "The Union of Folk Music & Dance" co-sponsored by the SF Ethnic Dance Festival, plus performances by Cascada de Flores (Mexican) and Edessa (Greek/Balkan) at Ashkenaz, both on Tuesday, May 15. The program starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

At 4 p.m. on Wednesday at SFSU, there'll be another free master class, "Arabic Music," presented by Georges Lammam Ensemble. For complete festival details, log on to [www.sfworldmusicfestival.org](http://www.sfworldmusicfestival.org).

Over at Theater Artaud (450 Florida St. @ 17th St.), the mysteriously electric Pamela Z plus butoh dancers Kinji Hayashi, Leigh Evans, and Shinichi "Momo" Koga explore the concept of foreignness in "Gaijin," a multimedia performance piece by Pamela Z. Decked out in a device called *The BodySynth*, Z makes music with her torso, arms, legs and head as she weaves spell-binding stories, heady with intellectualism, generally based on texts and various abstract ideas. The effects are hypnotic. The piece runs May 17-19 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18-\$22. Call 621-7797.

At SomArts Cultural Center (934 Brannan St. @ 8th St.), Asian American Dance Performances in association with the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center present "danceNAGANUMA: Ceremony of Angels," a sculptural piece combining classical ballet and butoh dance styles, choreographed by Claudine Naganuma, with live music by Guillermo Galinda and Joel Davel. The show runs May 10-12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are 415. Phone 441-8831.

Also South of Market, at New Langton Arts (1246 Folsom St.), the Asian American Theater Company presents the world premiere of Michael Premsrirat's "The Clouds, the Ocean, and Everything in Between." The play, which won the East West Players Y2K New Voices Playwriting Competition, runs May 11-June 10 at 8pm (7pm Sun.). Phone 440-7148. ▼

## Fri 11

### Yerba Buena Center

"Lightbox: the Third Annual Gala Art Fundraiser," a benefit for the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California, featuring a performance by the internationally renowned Kronos Quartet in a festive celebration of queer arts and culture. With live and silent auctions of artworks, an art raffle, party music, and hors d'oeuvres, wine, and cocktails. Featured artists include D-L Alvarez, Don Bachardy, Alyson Belcher, Ruth Bernhard, Bruce of LA, Jerome Caja, Timothy Cummings, Conrad Hechter, John Killacky, David King, Mona Kuhn, Pierre & Gilles, Rex Ray, Kent Taylor and many others. Art donors include several individuals and leading galleries and frame shops. Kronos Quartet emerged in 1973 as a leading voice for new work, and has assembled a body of work unparalleled in range and scope of expression, in the process capturing the attention of audiences worldwide. \$55-\$5,000. 7:30pm performance; 9pm auction. Tix/info: 777-5455.

### Z Space Studio

"SHTIKI!" a queer play on Jewish vaudeville, written and performed by Sara Felder. In her signature style, Felder turns her insightful eye and sharp wit to the great questions of our time: identity, sexuality and rubber chickens. The story begins with a young Jew sailing from Warsaw who dons a pair of trousers and ponders the wonders of Amerike. Then it travels to the present, introducing a queer performance artist who, shamelessly in love with Yiddishkeit, stretches back across the century for a kiss. Developed with Jayne Wenger. Plus many other comic characters. Directed by David Dower. \$15 (\$13 students/seniors; Thursdays are pay what you can). 8pm (3pm Sun.). Thru May 27 (no performances May 17 or 20). 1360 Mission St. (btwn 9th & 10th sts.), 3rd floor.

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

"Cloud 9," Caryl Churchill's biting, witty farce, directed by Arturo Catricala. Set in 1880 in "darkest," but British, Africa — the continent as portrayed in old movies, plays and novels — and present-day London. It riotously examines a cornucopia of sexual mores. The characters include Clive, a British functionary, his wife Betty (played by a man), their daughter Victoria (played by a rag doll), Clive's friend Harry (a bisexual explorer), Mrs. Saunders (who runs about in a riding habit), Clive's son Edward (who still plays with rag dolls and is performed by a woman), and Joshua, a black servant (played by a white) who knows exactly what is really going on. \$15-\$25. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 2pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

"Welcome to Our World," a piece written and performed by NCTC's Teen Performance Ensemble, directed by Gwen Loeb. It looks at the lives of teenagers in this strange new millennium, compelled by the recent shootings in San Diego, these teens have created a timely piece of theater that offers an uncensored glimpse into their world. \$10 adults; \$7 children; \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more. 8pm. Fri. & Sat. thru May 20. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### La Peña, Berkeley

In concert: Women in Musical Community present veteran blues artist Gwen Avery along with other front-runners in the women's music movement: Making Waves (vocal ensem-

Bronze figurines by Charles H. Stinson are part of the exhibition at Belcher Street Studios. See Friday.



Shinobu Ogasawara, Psy.D. trainee. Intake process required. \$8-\$40 per session, sliding. 6-7:30pm, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley. Call (510) 548-8283 and leave a message for either Reid (ext. 534) or Shinobu (ext. 522) to schedule intake appt.

## Sat 12

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

"SFinX" (San Francisco in Exile Live at the JSC) presents "Have You Seen Me?" an evening of spoken word poetry performance and multi-dimensional art installation queerness. With your toasted host, writer and medical-marijuana poster child Kris Kovick. Featuring poet and big-time tomboy Ida Action; Lynn Breedlove and orchestra (Cole Porter meets punk rock); Treat Street hottie Julia Bloch; Oakland slammer Sonia Whittle; Sara Moore, the paramour; new girl in town Carla Richmond; and Mr. Aztec Daddy Mario Anthony Balcita. Plus poet/goddess Ariana Wayans and 16th century bad girl Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz. All to be recorded for a new queer artists' web-based audio archive at [www.SFinExile.org](http://www.SFinExile.org). \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLQF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402. Call in advance for wheelchair access.

### Harvey Milk Plaza

The queer artists of Intergeneration host an "Art Attack" to introduce the public to the organization, a collaborative arts project that is building community among youth, seniors, and queers of all ages through the creation of paintings, video narratives, photography, and written works. 1-3pm. Corner of Castro & Market streets. Info: Frank Pietroniro, 695-0933; [signfun@earthlink.net](mailto:signfun@earthlink.net)

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Screening & panel discussion: "That's a Family," with documentary filmmakers Debra Chasnow and Helen Cohen. The film takes a half-hour tour, from a child's point of view, through a broad range of family structures. \$7-\$15 sliding (kids free). 6pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: 575-4962; [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)



Fudgie Frottage and Barry "Fresh" White get down and dirty with Dragstrip at Club 220. See Sunday.

eric o'malley



Ilya Pearlman in *Unhung*, part of "Performing Gender" at the SF Public Library's Koret Auditorium. See Wed.

#### San Leandro Community Church

Lavender Seniors, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenderers over the age of 55, will hold their monthly potluck. All welcome. Volunteers of all ages sought to work with socially isolated seniors. Bring potluck item. Noon. 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info: (510) 667-9655.

#### HMI @ Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Harvey Milk Institute classes: "Etruscan Chainwork" with Iris Sandkühler (Noon-4 pm; \$30 + \$15 materials fee); "Investing in Stocks 201" with Rattan Dodeja (10:30 am-1:30 pm; \$35); and "Practical Issues in Gay Male Dating" with Jamie M. Jan (Noon-4 pm; \$30), for men who find dating challenging and are interested in improving their experiences. 4329 19th St @ Collingwood. Info/registration: 552-7200; [www.harveymilk.org](http://www.harveymilk.org)

#### Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano/Western Addition

La fiesta del mes de Mayo, fiesta de la Batalla de Puebla (5 de Mayo), se celebrará en la residencia de Miguel García. Habrá una rifa de dos boletos para la "Fiesta del Sábado Rosa" del próximo 23 de Junio que tendrá lugar en la Rotonda del Centro Cívico. Les recordamos que necesitamos voluntarios para atender la cocina, recibir a los socios, servir la comida, lleven música si quieren bailar, o ideas para hacer de la reunión un éxito. Contribución como usualmente: plato fuerte (carne o pasta), gratis; plato ligero o bebidas, \$5; si prefieren no traer nada, \$10. El programa será: 6:30-8pm, bienvenida; 8-9pm, cena; 9-10:30pm, momento social. 1428 Fulton St. (aproximadamente a dos cuadras al oeste de la calle Divisadero y a cinco cuadras al norte de la calle Haight). Para más información llamar a Bartolo, 824-8704.

#### The Potters' Studio, Berkeley

Spring Sale: The works of nearly two dozen potters will be up for grabs today and tomorrow. Among the featured artists is Diane Amaral. 10am-6pm. 637 Cedar St., Berkeley. Info: (510) 528-3286.

#### Sun 13

##### Club 220

Dragstrip presents a drag king spectacular to benefit the GLBT Historical Society. Featuring Barry "Fresh" White, B.B. Gunn, Rico Suave, Rusty Hips, Rod Rising and others. With MC Fudgie Frottage. A selection of sex toys — courtesy of Good Vibrations — will be raffled. \$10-\$20. Doors open 8pm; show at 8:30pm. 220 Jones St. Info: 777-5455; [www.gvhistor.org](http://www.gvhistor.org); [www.newmeat.com](http://www.newmeat.com)

#### PFLAG/St. Francis Lutheran Church

Parents, Families and Friends of lesbians and Gays welcome guest speaker Belinda Dronkers-Laureta, co-president of Fremont/East Bay PFLAG. She has been a strong community leader and is committed to making safe schools a reality through the Committee to Assure Respect in Schools (CARS). She is also co-coordinator of the API-PFLAG Family Project and a founding member of the Families of Color Network. Free. 2-4pm PFLAG Support Group meets (all welcome; 3-

4pm program. 152 Church St. (at Market). Info: 921-8850.

#### Marlena's

Emperor John Carillo and Mr. Gay SF present the second annual Miss Mother/Daughter drag pageant. 5pm. 488 Hayes St. Info: 673-0405.

#### Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

Chanteuse Connie Champagne returns as Judy Garland, belting out such song classics as "The Man That Got Away" and "Get Happy." Music direction by Trauma Flintstone. 1pm. 186 Market St. Info: 864-3700.

#### Mon 14

##### Proyecto ContrasIDA Por Vida

"Loving & Lovin': A Gathering of Jotos, Locas, y Traviestos." What does it mean to be Lovin' and Lovin' as Queer Latino men? Come join this 10 session workshop where we will discuss the realities of our lives, exploring creative ways to express our desires, frustration, y todo lo que nos da la gana. 2973 16th St. (@ Mission) Info: Call Sergio 575-1643

#### A Different Light Bookstore

Reading and book signing with Jack Fritscher, author of *What They Did To The Kid*. Free. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.

#### Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret

Piplo Lovestocking hosts this week's "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's." Featuring David Guiney, Ken Miller, show closer Bridget Schwartz, and more. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610; [www.QComey.com](http://www.QComey.com). No reservations necessary.

#### Tue 15

##### SF Performing Arts Library & Museum

Author Janet Lynn Roseman will talk about her new book *Dance Masters*. The discussion will include guests from the dance community. The book profiles Merce Cunningham, Danny Grossman, Alonso King, Mark Morris, Michael Smuin, Catherine Turocy and Edward Villella. Free. 6pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (across the street from City Hall), 4th floor. Reservations encouraged: 255-4800.

#### Curran Theatre

Preview: Best of Broadway presents the first off-Broadway engagement of "Contact," the theatre-dance piece that earned four Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Choreography. Three sensual stories about the pursuit of love, told entirely through dance. \$37-\$80. Opens May 22. Thru June 24. 445 Geary (btwn Mason & Taylor). Tix/info: 512-7770; 551-2000; [www.bestofbroadway-sf.com](http://www.bestofbroadway-sf.com)

#### Yerba Buena Center

"Dances from the Heart," a gala benefit for Continuum and Dancers Responding to AIDS, featuring performances by MOMIX, The Capoeiras of Bahia, Tau Dance Theater, Cortez & Co. contemporary/Ballet, and Smuin Ballet/SF. An eclectic, exciting program of contemporary and ethnic dance. 7:30pm. 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). \$50 (\$150 & \$250 prime seating & post-show reception). Tix/info: 978-2787; [www.DRADance.org](http://www.DRADance.org)

#### Wed 16

##### Koret Auditorium, SF Public Library

"Performing Gender," an evening of performance art, spoken word, and music, presented by the GLBT Historical and the SF Public Library's James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center. Performers include Ms. Bob Davis, Jacob Hale, Solidad La Costa, Texas tomboy, Veronica Klaus, and Shawna Virago and the Deadly Nightshade Family. Produced by Jordy Jones in conjunction with the exhibition "Trans Art 2001" on exhibit thru June 5 at the GLBT Historical Society. Free. 6-8pm. 100 Larkin St. (at Market). Info: 777-5455.

#### Thu 17

##### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

LIT @ JSC, the queer literary reading series, presents an evening with Adam Klein and Camille Roy. Klein is the author of *The Medicine Burns* (High Risk/Serpent's Tail Books) and has just completed a novel, *Tiny Ladies*. His writing has been widely anthologized, including in *Men on Men 5*, *Best Gay Fiction '96*, *The James White Review* and elsewhere. He is also author, along with Thomas Avena, of the artist monograph *Jerome: After the Pageant*, about the late, great queer painter Jerome Caja. Roy is a writer and performer of plays, poetry and fiction. Her most recent book is a work of fiction, *SWARM*. She is a founding editor of the online journal *Narrativity*. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; [www.jonsimscatr.org](http://www.jonsimscatr.org)

##### Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano, the gay social group for all Spanish-speaking gay men and their friends, meets for a viewing of the 1993 Cuban film *Fresca y Chocolate*, about a flamboyant gay man who strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young, homophobic, revolutionary university student. \$1. Call for details: David at 621-7060.

#### 26 Mix

Book-release party and reading: *Depending on the Light* (Manic D Press) by local poet and performer Thea Hillman. With music by DJ Mark Dean and performances by Sini Anderson, Cooper Bombardier, Storm Florez, Amelia Hess, Kris Kovick, Kendra Lubalin, and Carol Queen. Free (\$5 after 10pm for Rebel Girl danceclub). 7:30-9:30pm. 3024 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez).

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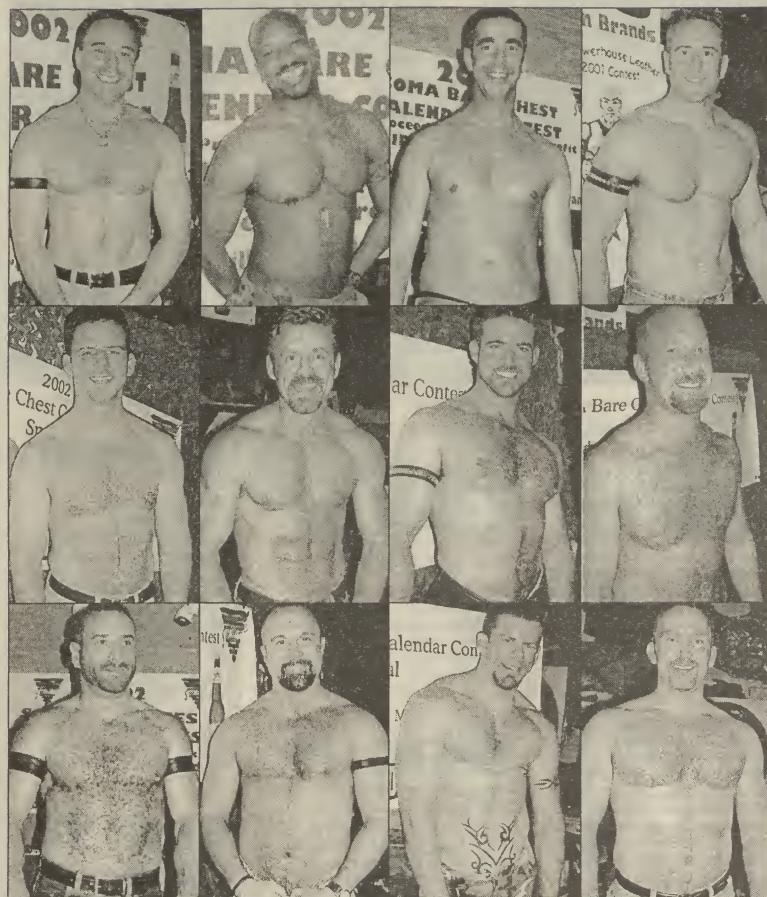
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Mister Marcus

Meet the Bare Chest Calendar Men for 2002 (L to R, top to bottom): Scott Brogan (Jan.); Tony Smith (Feb.); Enrique Massa (Mar.); Greg Graziani (Apr.); Niko Letinic (May); Doug Roenicke (June); Terry West, (July); Gary Fruhlich, (Aug.); Peter Jackson (Sep.); Joe Bonafede (Oct.); Kurt Cooper (Nov.); and Paul Larson (Dec.).

## Mirror, mirror on the wall

by Mister Marcus

The climax of the bare-chest calendar contest "season" comes next Thursday, May 17 when the 12 winners of the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar contests will meet once more on the stage of the Powerhouse Bar to see which one will grace the cover of the 2002 calendar. The runner-up will be on the back cover of the calendar.

It's been a long haul since Mr. January 2002 on January 11 at the Powerhouse and three others at

Harvey's in the Castro. This year, some 76 men competed (some of them more than once) and 48 judges put them through the paces.

In January, Steve Corrigan of Golden Brands presented a check for \$32,000 to the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resources — the net proceeds from the 2000 calendar. Officials at S-MILE are optimistic that the 2002 calendar will exceed that amount. James Scott Geras will have completed photographing the 12 win-



ners by the time you read this, so you know the 2002 calendar will be a masterpiece.

So come on down to the Powerhouse next Thursday for the cover competition and show your support for a very worthy cause.

And while I'm on the subject of calendars, a Bare Chest Calendar reunion is scheduled for Saturday, July 28 — the day before the Dore Alley Fair — at the Powerhouse. If you know any of the next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, May 10

The annual AIDS Emergency Fund banquet. This year, it takes place on the SS Hornblower, leaving from Pier 33 precisely at 1900. Register, board for the reception at 1800, and the dinner and entertainment are between 2000 and 2115. The ship docks at 2145. Individual tickets are \$150. For more info, call (510) 532-7700 or click on [www.aidsemergencyfund.org](http://www.aidsemergencyfund.org).

### Weekend, May 11-13

Highwaymen TNT of Washington, DC Bearfest 2991 with Mr. DC Bear & DC Bear Cub contests at the Washington Plaza Hotel. For more info, [www.dcpride.org/highwaymentn/bearfest](http://www.dcpride.org/highwaymentn/bearfest).

Cal Eagles MC over-nighter run to Morro Bay, always a fun run. For more info, call (650) 219-6461.

### Friday, May 11

California B&B Corps-SF Division uniform night

at the Loading Dock beginning around 2200. Uniform mavens & admirers invited.

### Saturday, May 12

Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia present a Master/Slave Auction at the Bike Stop from 2000-2400, a fundraiser for Manna and the LA&M. All sorts of celebrity items auctioned off, slave boys, underwear auction, etc.

Bay Area Submissives meet from 1300 to 1500 today. For invite and location, call (415) 430-2160.

### Wednesday, May 16

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Clothes check mandatory. Doors 2100-2300. Call 863-HEAD.

### Thursday, May 17

Bare Chest Calendar Cover Man Contest at the Powerhouse at 2100. All 12 winners compete for the cover spot on the calendar with 5 judges deciding. Always a crowd pleaser, don't miss THIS one!

## PORN

# Bully pulp-it

## Colbert's 'Porn Fiction'

by John F. Karr

It took four years for Gino Colbert to make and release *Porn Fiction*. The project was halted by various cast members awakening to Jesus, or being incapacitated by drugs. Performers had to be re-engaged, and an entire scene reshot when footage was stolen. These delays have left a number of the video's performers, as well as the catch-phrase pun of its title, lacking currency. But that's not all that makes so much of *Porn Fiction* passé. Watching it, I'm reminded of a jack-off party I was



### Karrnal Knowledge

at in the late 1970s. One of the guests was a suit type, a big gold ring, steak and martini kind of guy, who fondled a lot of dicks while talking about pussy. This stimulated him, but it seemed particularly out of step to the rest of us gay libbers, that tales of women's genitals were considered an aphrodisiac.

Call me old-fashioned, but what can I say: I'm gay. I believe in the absence of women in gay porn. Especially the cheap tarts Colbert favors, with their shaved vaginas calculatedly exposed. They aren't decorative, and they don't have sex. It seems their function in the movie is to confirm an unendurable plot device: the heterosexuality of the guys.

We're not talking a stimulating bisexuality here, but straightness that's somehow supposed to make men having gay sex more manly. Variations are worked in each of the four scenes of *Porn Fiction*, as husbands deceive their wives, closet cases are brutalized, gay-bashers are made to endure male sex as punishment, and psycho jailbirds terrorize their captives with forced male-male sex. Yes, I know there's titillation in Colbert's being politically incorrect. But his half-

cooked, alienating fantasies are hobbled by more than just his traditionally cheap sets (those echoing plywood walls and faceless rented furniture). His scripts are barely written, and his direction of unschooled performers is either nonexistent or unrecieved. And if he's reworking the pulp genre, if this is actually a satire of bad porn, his work is so lacking

a defining style that it comes off as the real thing: bad porn.

It's all so confusing to a simple gay boy that I longed to forego the loathsome 5- and 10-minute psychodramas that replace actual

foreplay in each scene. But if, like me, you have to slog through them, you'll still find much of the sex effective when it finally arrives. In keeping with the general tone, it's pretty loveless. The sex act is rendered as a forceful and abrupt event, lacking sensuality or tease. Cocks are introduced to a mouth or an ass like a plug to a drain. This allows some of the cast members to whip it up ruggedly, however, and the clear-eyed videography and lighting record everything well.

### That's swell

I appreciated the handsome dick of masseur Scott Matthews swelling up to impressive size in the cradling palm of client Eric Evans, before the pair engage in sloppy rimming and a brusque boffing. Even though I found the scene of revenge that Vince Rockland is forced to enact particularly repellent, he's attractive and fucks fiercely.

But fierce takes on new proportions when Jon Vincent arrives to terrorize curvaceous J.T. Sloan and the slick-dicked Sweet William. It's no surprise that the famously volatile (aka druggie) Vincent is highly credible as a bru-

"Mama", Glennon Sutter, Terry Gauchat and Chris Ross put the contestants through the paces.

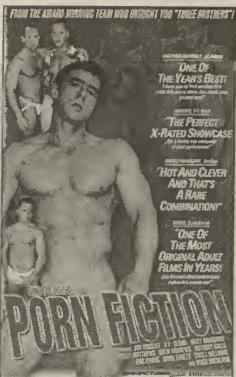
When all was said and done, James Holloway became Mr. SF Drummer 2001, and Jack Garcia is the SF Drummer Boy. Both will advance to compete for the Northern California Regional titles in July.

In Dallas, Texas, the first Regional Mr. Drummer contest took place at the Dáallas Eagle on Saturday night, May 5, before almost 500 leather people. Judges Randal Kinnear, Kevin Eddings, Daniel Clark, Victor Varela, Ken Zigler, Dan Azevedo, Stephen Scott and Ken Claude put the four Drummer men and the two boys through the judging process. When it was over, the city of Houston made a clean sweep of the titles when Billy Bob Spears became Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer 2001, and Boy Patrick is Gulf Coast Drummer Boy 2001.

Billy and Boy Patrick will advance to the International Mr. Drummer finals in St. Petersburg, FL the weekend of October 5-7.

### Elsewhere

The Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer contest took place in Scranton on Saturday night. The Mr. PA Drummer man is Michael Casey of Philadelphia, and Boy



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Stewart (Henretta) is the PA Drummer Boy. Both will advance to the Mid-Atlantic Drummer Regional contest later this year.

The Arizona Drummer and Drummer Boy contests were taking place on Sunday night, May 6, too late for this deadline, so stay tuned for the results next week.

### Remembrances

Almost 300 people showed up at the Metropolitan Community Church last Saturday evening, May 5 to memorialize the life of Bob Miller, who was Mr. Edge Leather 2000. It was a fitting ceremony for a much respected leather man in our community. Musical interludes were interspersed by speakers who eulogized a man who commanded an array of various lifestyle people here in San Francisco and in the South Bay. The speakers alternated between humorous anecdotes and heartfelt sorrow. Revs. Penny Nixon and David Gant officiated, and the Bay Area Flute Ensemble, T.J. and Sheba, Doug Stevens and Kathleen Antonia offered music fitting for the occasion. After the service, a huge crowd showed up at the Edge to celebrate. It was altogether a fitting and proper remembrance and celebration of the life of one of our most cherished leather men. ▶



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*(2) you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:*

• Fever

• Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain

• Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling

• Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking TRIZIVIR and call your doctor right away.**

If you stop treatment with TRIZIVIR because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again.** If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours.**

## NEW for HIV

1

1 tablet

2

2 times a day

3

3 medicines

## 3 HIV medicines in 1 tablet

- One tablet, two times a day, with or without food
- TRIZIVIR contains ZIAGEN® (abacavir sulfate 300 mg), EPIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg), and RETROVIR® (zidovudine 300 mg) in a single tablet

## 3-in-1 therapy

Talk to your healthcare professional about whether TRIZIVIR may be right for you. For more information, call 1-888-825-5249.

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with TRIZIVIR for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as TRIZIVIR or ZIAGEN) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor, if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

**Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and/or white blood cells, especially in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.**

**A buildup of lactic acid and severe liver problems, including fatal cases, have been reported with HIV drugs of this type, including the medicines in TRIZIVIR and other antiretrovirals.**

The most common side effects of taking the medicines in TRIZIVIR together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain. Most of these side effects were mild to moderate and did not cause people to stop taking these medicines.

Reference: L. Wong et al. Clin Infect Dis.

Please see important information for TRIZIVIR on adjacent page.

[www.TRIZIVIR.com](http://www.TRIZIVIR.com)



**MEDICATION GUIDE****TRIZIVIR® (TRY-zih-veer) Tablets**

Generic name: abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine

*Read the Medication Guide you get each time you fill your prescription for Trizivir. There may be new information since you filled your last prescription.***What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?**

Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen®. About 1 in 20 patients (5%) who take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) will have a **serious allergic reaction** (hypersensitivity reaction) that **may cause death if the drug is not stopped right away**.

*You may be having this reaction if:*

- (1) **you get a skin rash, or**
- (2) **you get 1 or more symptoms from at least 2 of the following groups:**
  - Fever
  - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach area) pain
  - Extreme tiredness, achiness, generally ill feeling
  - Sore throat, shortness of breath, cough

If you think you may be having a reaction, **STOP taking Trizivir and call your doctor right away**.

If you stop treatment with Trizivir because of this serious reaction, **NEVER take abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again**. If you take any of these medicines again after you have had this serious reaction, **you could die within hours**.

Some patients who have stopped taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) and who have then started taking abacavir again have had serious or life-threatening allergic (hypersensitivity) reactions. If you must stop treatment with Trizivir for reasons other than symptoms of hypersensitivity, do not begin taking it again without talking to your health care provider. If your health care provider decides that you may begin taking abacavir (as Trizivir or Ziagen) again, you should do so only in a setting with other people to get access to a doctor if needed.

A written list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you.

Trizivir can have other serious side effects. Be sure to read the section below entitled "What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?"

**What is Trizivir?**

Trizivir is a medicine used to treat HIV infection. Trizivir includes 3 medicines: Ziagen (abacavir), Epivir® (lamivudine or 3TC®), and Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT, or ZDV).

All 3 of these medicines are called nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). When used together, they help lower the amount of HIV in your blood. This helps to keep your immune system as healthy as possible so it can fight infection.

Different combinations of medicines are used to treat HIV infection. You and your doctor should discuss which combination of medicines is best for you.

Trizivir does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. Trizivir has not been studied long enough to know if it will help you live longer or have fewer of the medical problems that are associated with HIV infection or AIDS. Therefore, you must see your health care provider regularly.

**Who should not take Trizivir?**

Do not take Trizivir if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (a hypersensitivity reaction) to any of the medicines that make up Trizivir, especially Ziagen (abacavir). If you have had such a reaction, return all of your unused Trizivir to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take Trizivir if you weigh less than 90 pounds.

**How should I take Trizivir?**

To help make sure that your anti-HIV therapy is as effective as possible, take your Trizivir exactly as your doctor prescribes it. Do not skip any doses.

The usual dosage is 1 tablet twice a day. You can take Trizivir with food or on an empty stomach.

If you miss a dose of Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate, lamivudine, and zidovudine), take the missed dose right away. Then, take the next dose at the usual scheduled time. Do not let your Trizivir run out. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if your anti-HIV drugs are stopped, even for a short time. Also, the virus in your body may become harder to treat.

**What should I avoid while taking Trizivir?**

Do not take Epivir, Retrovir, Combivir®, or Ziagen while taking Trizivir. These medicines are already in Trizivir.

Practice safe sex while using Trizivir. Do not use or share dirty needles. Trizivir does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Talk to your doctor if you are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking Trizivir. Trizivir has not been studied in pregnant women. It is not known whether Trizivir will harm the unborn child.

Mothers with HIV should not breastfeed their babies because HIV is passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, Trizivir can be passed to babies in breast milk and could cause the child to have side effects.

**What are the possible side effects of Trizivir?**

**Life-threatening allergic reaction.** Trizivir contains abacavir, which is also called Ziagen. Abacavir has caused some people to have a life-threatening allergic reaction (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death. How to recognize a possible reaction and what to do are discussed in "What is the most important information I should know about Trizivir?" at the beginning of this Medication Guide.

**Lactic acidosis and severe liver problems.** The medicines in Trizivir can cause a serious condition called lactic acidosis and, in some cases, this condition can cause death. Nausea and tiredness that don't get better may be symptoms of lactic acidosis. Women are more likely than men to get this serious side effect.

**Blood problems.** Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause serious blood cell problems. These include reduced numbers of white blood cells (neutropenia) and extremely reduced numbers of red blood cells (anemia). These blood cell problems are especially likely to happen in patients with advanced HIV disease or AIDS.

Your doctor should be checking your blood cell counts regularly while you are taking Trizivir. This is especially important if you have advanced HIV or AIDS. This is to make sure that any blood cell problems are found quickly.

**Muscle weakness.** Retrovir, one of the medicines in Trizivir, can cause muscle weakness. This can be a serious problem.

**Other side effects.** Trizivir can cause other side effects. The most common side effects of taking the medicines in Trizivir together are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, weakness or tiredness, headache, dizziness, pain or tingling of the hands or feet, and muscle and joint pain.

This listing of side effects is not complete. Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects with Trizivir.

Ask a health care professional about any concerns about Trizivir. If you want more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the labeling for Trizivir that was written for health care professionals.

Do not use Trizivir for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Trizivir to other persons.

**GlaxoWellcome**

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

November 2000

*This Medication Guide has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.*

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TRZ022R0

April 2001

# Seven days in May

by Victoria A. Brownworth

**J**une may be Pride month on the Castro, but May sweeps is queer kiss month on TV. Promos of upcoming queer kisses have been running for weeks in advance of the programs, just in case you might be a billionaire off the planet for a few days with the Russian space team, or trapped in the outback on *Survivor*.

Then the big night arrives and there you sit, watching shows you hate just to see a couple of straight actors play gay for two minutes.

And so we watched *Friends* for only the third time in six years just to see Jennifer Aniston smooch Winona Ryder. We watched because we read about it in *Entertainment Weekly*, *People* and *TV Guide* and saw the promo about 150 times. We watched because we wanted to see what the kiss would be like.

If this is how straight girls kiss, we are very glad we are queer. The kiss was bad, really bad. A big slam on the mouth, no lip action, no tongue, no sensuality whatsoever. If this is how Aniston kisses in real life, we hold little hope for her marriage to Brad Pitt. We had to agree with Lisa Kudrow, who kissed Aniston after Ryder just to see what it was like. Opined Kudrow's Phoebe, "I've had better."

We are excessively tired of this pseudo-lesbian ratings ploy. *Friends* paralleled the big kiss on *Roseanne* a few years back between *Roseanne* and *Mariel Hemingway* (like that would happen in real life) as well as the one on *Grose Pointe*.

These plots are solely to titillate straight male viewers. They don't further queer presence on network TV, they don't broaden perspective on queer sexuality, they don't address queer issues. It's faux queerness. On *Friends*, Rider's character appeared a total nutcase for revealing her attraction to Aniston's, who claimed their make-out session in college as the one *outré* thing she'd ever done. Not funny, not groundbreaking, just icky. And bad kissing besides.

Conversely, the much-hyped kiss between Jack and Toby at the prom on *Dawson's Creek* was tender and real (and long), a kiss we believe and a kiss integral to the plot, as Jack has been denying his feelings for Toby for months. This kiss — coming as it does after Jack (Kerr Smith) does a fine job in this

tuitious queer story and have regular queer characters who are, like Jack on *DC*, well-integrated into the overall plot of the show. *Friends* has a solid team of writers and a co-creator who's queer. There's simply no excuse for this kind of pandering.



Denise Rich: disturbingly opulent

### Pardon her

Speaking of pandering, the Barbara Walters interview on *20/20* with Denise Rich, former wife of Clinton pardoned Marc Rich, seemed sooo beside the point. Other than getting a glimpse of Rich's disturbingly opulent lifestyle, listening to her not-so-great Grammy-nominated chart-toppers and detailing the tragedy of her daughter's death from cancer, the interview told us nothing. Rich can't discuss the pending litigation over the pardon. So what was the point? Oops — we forgot: Ratings! Plus, ABC despises Clinton and hasn't had anything to rake him over the coals for lately. Of course, that may be because he hasn't been President for five months, but hey, details, details.

Speaking of Presidents, we continue to be agog at the statements issuing forth from the Bush White House. We were especially riveted by Dick Cheney's comments at his press conference on energy. Californians anticipating spending much of the summer sweltering in the dark will be pleased to know that energy conservation is "virtuous" but not necessary. Not when our nation is chock-full of renewable resources like trees (trees? What country — and century — does Cheney think we are living in?) and the Alaskan Wildlife Reserve, where we can glean up to six whole months of energy and only ruin the environment for several thousand years.

Inexplicably, Bush's first 100 days were given uniformly high ratings by the Sunday pundits — who were far too busy to notice Bush's destruction of the environment because they were calling for the head (and Bronze Star) of former Sen. Bob Kerry for his role in killing civilians during a raid in Vietnam 32 years ago. Republicans — who, it seems, are routinely able to escape the draft — are calling for an investigation.

We protested the war and were jailed for doing so. Some of our high school classmates died in the war, some fled to Canada. The Vietnam War (called the Living Room War because it was the first to be televised daily) was a horror from start to finish. Those of us who thought it was wrong think so to this day. But if anyone is to be investigated for their role in the war it should not be Kerry, then a 24-year-old corporal leading a platoon of 19- and 20-year-olds. Rather, it should be the Henry Kissingers and Robert McNamara and McGeorge Bundy who orchestrated a war they never even hoped to win, another country's

civil war, which in turn sundered our own nation and, as the Kerry story plays out, continues to do so.

### Capital steps

The battle over the death penalty also rages on, and as the May 16 execution of Timothy McVeigh approaches with some question still as to whether or not it will be televised, the subject of capital punishment has been the topic of numerous news programs. *Nightline*, *Dateline* and *20/20* have all done excellent pieces in recent days.

*Nightline* broadcast the audiotapes of two executions in Georgia, including an electrocution which took 37 minutes because the prisoner would not die.

In discussing whether or not McVeigh's execution should be public (the last public execution was in Owensburg, Kentucky 65 years ago), Ted Koppel reflected on Hannah Arendt's "banality of evil" — executions, particularly when done correctly, hold little drama. There is a disturbing redundancy to the events, as the tapes indicated.

This is what television does at its best: provokes discourse on issues of tremendous import. Another episode of *Nightline* detailed the case of Johnnie Paul Penry, scheduled to be executed in Texas a few days before McVeigh. Penry's case is a proof text for opponents and proponents of the death penalty. On death row for 20 years for the rape and murder of 22-year-old Pamela Mosley, he has had four separate execution dates, all stayed.

Penry has an IQ of 50. He has the comprehension of a seven-year-old. He never finished first grade. And he came from a background rife with hideous physical and sexual abuse.

*Nightline* aired interviews with him, the attorneys who have handled his case pro bono for the past 11 years, and the family of his victim.

It was true reality TV, with a complexity that no movie of the week or docudrama could capture. The pain of the victim's family, offset by the astounding character of Penry, whose comprehension of even fairly simple questions is vague at best. The program left the viewer shattered. The US is one of only two nations in the world — the other is Kurdistan — to execute the mentally retarded.

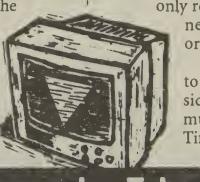
The *Nightline* program begs many questions, among them this: If the US does not execute anyone under the age of 15 because anyone younger is deemed psychologically and intellectually incapable of acting as an adult in commission of a capital crime, how can we execute a man with a child's comprehension, whose only request of his attorney is for more coloring books?

From the dramatic to the much lighter side of survival, we must congratulate Tina Wesson on becoming the first woman to win a *Survivor* challenge.

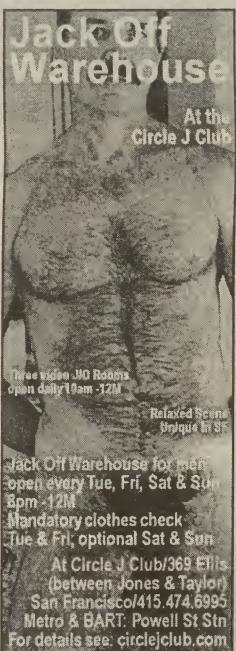
The Outback round was grim and sometimes grisly, and unlike the island series last time around, all the problematic characters got voted off relatively early in the Outback. This made it difficult to choose between the final pair of cutie-pie Colby and tough-but-nice Tina. Both players did an excellent job, both were deserving of the win, but Tina was just a little more real, a little more honest, a little more worthy of viewer (and jury) support. In a well-played game in which the final five episodes were riveting, Tina was a

real winner. Brava!

Finally, our quote of the week comes, as ever, from Bill Maher, who in discussing the Bush push for the unworkable Star Wars missile defense system versus Cheney's dismissal of looking for alternative energy sources, noted, "We deserve more than to be canaries in the mine for the benefit of the oil business. We used to have a protective shield over the Earth, and it wasn't Star Wars — it was called the ozone layer. Bush's theme ought to be don't start thinking about tomorrow." ▼



### Lavender Tube



*Thinking of you...*



May is National Masturbation Month, so make masturbation your destination with a visit to Good Vibrations!

Watch GVTY, our Internet talk show hosted by Dr. Carol Queen! Go to [goodvibes.com](http://goodvibes.com) and follow the links!



**Good Vibrations**  
It's all about attitude.

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San Francisco  
415/974-8980

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510/841-8987

1-800-buy-vibe  
[goodvibes.com](http://goodvibes.com)

**FILM FESTIVAL**  
thurs. 1, 6 & 9:30pm  
**vintage porn**  
fri. 1, 6 & 9:30pm

**NOT LAVA**  
sat. 9pm-2am

**ASIAN PERSUasion**  
sun. all day

**NEWMEAT** video  
mon. 1, 6 & 9:30pm

**KINK NIGHT**  
tues. 1, 6 & 9:30pm

**AMATEUR STRIP**  
wed. 9pm



220 jones st. @turf  
[newmeat.com](http://newmeat.com)  
415-673-3384

**CLUB 220**

Formerly the Campus Theater



Dale Robertson

Kerr Smith: smack!

role) acknowledges his attraction for and fear of involvement with Toby, who is comfortably, openly gay — was worth the wait and the hour.

*Will & Grace* manages to routinely break ground and be funny and not use sex gratuitously to grab ratings. *Spin City* doesn't play games with its queer character, Carter. Other dramas making good use of queer storylines — notably *ER*, *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*, *NYPD Blue*, *Providence* and *Dark Angel* — also avoid the gra-

# BAR TALK



Photo by Steven Underhill

## 1.900.884.8846

Only \$1.99 per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone telephones. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

### Don't want to use the #900 line? Use BLOCK OF TIME™

You can purchase time on our system by calling 1-800-321-6845 and requesting a 10, 20, 30, or 60 minute Block of Time™ with discounts of up to 20%. The cost is \$1.99 per minute and you may use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express card. You will be able to respond, browse, and retrieve messages by using your Block of Time™ account from any touch-tone phone!

### PARTING GLANCES

**3/31 #35 Eureka**  
You: Tall, olive t-shirt, youthful, headphones, handsome. Me: S/P hair, a tad chunky, older, attractive. We exchanged shy smiles. Can we meet? Please call. ☎ 71223

**- Glen Park Bar 4/26-**  
7:30 pm. You, handsome 30s AM, standing across the street. Me: 40s GWM, short blond hair, crossing street with friend. You held my admiring gaze. Can we meet? ☎ 71248

**Lombard Office H&R Block Apr. 6**  
Joining inside after you almost flipped my bike in the rain, we signed papers for tax women. Smiling, you said goodbye, leaving me fixated on your chin-stubbed face. ☎ 71181

**Easter Candy At Walgreens 4/14**  
We exchanged several quick glances while shopping for Easter candy at Walgreens at Castro and 18th that afternoon. You: short brown hair, jeans. Can we meet? ☎ 71202

**Thursday Night- Luna Piena 4-12**  
You: African-American eating with friend (African American). Me: short hair, saw you on the street, smiled, turned, smiled again. Dinner. ☎ 71203

**- Club Universe 4/21/01-**  
To the guys that helped me in the coat check line around 3 or 4 in the morning when I fainted. Please call for "Thank you!" ☎ 71223

**"Rob" Attn Daytime Cock sucker**  
You: 5'9", 190#, 47yrs. Blk/Blu, clean shave. U answered ad #72879 on 3-27-01. Unable to reach you at the # you left. Pls call ☎ 71166

**Th 4/26 SFAF Dinner, Ft Mason**  
Met in bathroom, talked about "20". You: beautiful Asian man at friend's table. Me: White man trying his tie. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71249

**Gap Store- Powell St. Sat. Aft.**  
Saturday afternoon, 3/31, you: dark hair, with friend. Me: with kids, short pants. Looked, looked back, in store and at register. Dinner? ☎ 71183

**- Brandon From Scott Street-**  
First Harvey's, then in our neighborhood. Been hoping to hear from you, so trying this! Dinner, show, or drink? ☎ 71182

### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**"HIV+"**  
Cocktail & bullshit free. 40, 6' 170lbs, brbl, w/big fat cut one, looking for another. ☎ 71230

**Hairy Top \***

G/B/WM wanted. Me: 150# hairless GWM mid 40, 7'cut, into most interesting. Great for fuck buddy. ☎ 71251

**Wyoming First Timer Ready???**

30yr old Indian male seeks other first time mates out there prefer black, asian males in good shape and health need not be an "stud" lets explore our world today. I'm ready Are You? ☎ 71167

**Searching for Gigantic Nipples**  
Muscular GWM, 42 wanting to date a muscular smooth guy w/Huge protruding thick nipples. I have a great mouth w/good suction! ☎ 71168

**Cute Fat Guy f/ Skinny 18-32yo**  
Me: Professional, 32, 6', 285#, good looking GWM, inexperienced bottom. You: Thin to normal (170# or so) White or Asian with delicious asshole to eat. Looking for possible LTR. ☎ 71174

**\*Chubby Bear Seeks Same \***  
GWM, 38, 5'10", 250, brown eyes/ hair/ beard sees same 30-45. N/S/ND. Likes: theatre, opera, quiet times, good food; quiet and shy. ☎ 71184

**-Lonely In South Bay!-**  
Lean muscular WM 43 seeks another lean masculine guy to share experiences with and be close to. Not into gay scene. Enjoy the outdoors, music, films, picnics & affection. ☎ 71185

**Hairy Top \***  
G/B/WM wanted. Me: 150# hairless GWM mid 40, 7'cut, into most interesting. Great for fuck buddy. ☎ 71251

**"I Want You The Right Way!"**  
GWM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips ++. ☎ 71186

**"You, Me, Us!"**  
Stable, upbeat GWM, 34, 5'6", HIV-, looking to meet/date similar A/W men, 30-40 in East Bay. Want someone who can be honest, compassionate, monogamous. Let's talk. ☎ 71187

**Dorky Literate Jazzy Hipsters!**  
Me: 35 Latino mutt, dark brn eyes/hair, tall/blankly, down. Wanted: gregarious, spontaneous, make-me-laugh, youngish guys who like to play, dance, camp, read. Sagittarian friendly. No frills. ☎ 71204

**Romantic Bright Prof X N.Yorker**  
Seeks prof, sane, cuddly guy for good times. I'm 6ft, 160lbs, healthy HIV+, passionate, irreverent, Jewish. Your under 50, employed, attractive, any race. ☎ 71205

**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same interests. Getting to know other people. ☎ 71206

**Nice GHM 47 Open To Meet You**  
Of you like to be sucked I'll be your Latin girl friend in Santa Rosa love top man we can fuck in the river. Call me. ☎ 71207

**Affectionate Men Over 50**  
WLM 45, 6' 160lbs. dk hr. ISO men 50+ for sensual times or poss LTR. Facial hair, husky, working class, left-wing politics A+. No gay scene, drugs, but smoking ok. ☎ 71208

**HIV+, Blacks, Latinos, Puerto Ricans**  
Wanted by HIV+, blonde/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs, generally honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71225

**"Looking For A Friend!"**  
To spend quality time together, travel, talking, hug & kisses. I am Asian 65 5'9", 150lbs. Please be under 40, trim or muscular, caring & very good looking. Thanks. ☎ 71226

**- Tops-R-U!-**

Big-Dick Italian top likes the camaraderie of being with other top men.

Need a buddy to "Hang", cruise, stroke, travel, etc? Age, race, looks not important. Masculine In-shape men only! ☎ 71227

**\*Handsome Young Russian \***

Is looking for other cute and intelligent Russian or European boys in their 20's or 30's only. You won't be disappointed and I'm also very faithful. All calls are returned. ☎ 71228

**Asian 4 Friendship Or More...**

Goodlooking GWM 30, 5'8", slim, masculine, HIV- with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking masculine GWM 45 or younger for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71229

**Regular Guy Seeks Buddy + More!**

Masculine WPM outside the scene, tall fit goodlooking, 51, active outdoor and varied indoor interests seeks similar 45-55 for serious relationship. Must be HIV neg. N/S, ND. ☎ 71250

**\*Rugged Asian \***

Masculine, dominant, warm hearted, smooth, athletic Asian, 53, 5'8", 155 seeks clean shave, lean or muscular, smooth WM for adventurous, companion or more. Enjoy working out, sports, hiking, films, arts and you? S 71224

**"Muscular Monogamous Man!"**

Into TV, pop culture, dancing, cooking, exercise, tit/playboy/worship; seeks muscular GM for S/F dates. I'm Asian, young 51, 5'7", 150#, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71253

**Sly? Working Out Your Body? Do**

You like looking at yourself? Feeling yourself? "Good!" Would you like to show it off as I watch & encourage you? Compliment you? Me: handsome Latin 40, house in Sonoma County. ☎ 71236

**HIV+GBM SKS GWM Dominant Top**  
6ft 175, 38 masculine but submissive. Prefer affectionate male build. Don't be PC. Tell me how want me to take it. ☎ 71252

### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**-----Bondage-----**  
East Bay Master seeks slave for bondage and/or life S/M. The curious welcome. Blk's & Str8, versatile, discreet, and safe. ☎ 71169

**Hot Latin Seeks Generous Asian**  
Str8-acting, good looking Latino, 5yo, 6'160#, seeks submissive, generous men to service my needs. ☎ 71170

**Oral Service**  
GAM 30 seeks mature GWM, hung thick for fucking fun. San Mateo Co. Please be clean HIV-, non-smoking. ☎ 71171

**Butt Buddee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
Playroom for one on one/small groups. Fingers, toys, fist, action. Versatile only, no hard drugs. Hot play attitude more important than looks. GWM, 4263', peard/Bear. ☎ 71172

**Latin Top**  
Seeks eager bottoms, any race, ht/wt proportionate, 35+ for hot times. I'm 5'10", 175#, muscular, moustache and smooth with great stamina. Smoke, aroma ok.... ☎ 71173

**(Weight Lifting Nude)**  
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Come over, get in shape. Am 48, 5'9", 190#, regular workout. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71175

**\*\*Horse Hung Seeks Same\*\***  
VGL BM, 30, 5'11", horse hung 9.5", clean cut, former model, muscular 195#, fun loving, male seeks hung men who are 9" or more, or beer can size. Any race/age. ☎ 71176

**Healthy HIV+ Bodybuilding**

37yrs old 5'8", 153# brn skin, warm, sincere, looking 4 masculine slim guy NS/ND, under 40yrs, small rice butt. Live in SF. No to conservative. ☎ 71188

**Black Men Who Would Enjoy Thee**  
Services offered by a submissive white bottom who enjoys wearing lingerie and being your white pussy. 5'8", 155# satisfaction on a regular basis. ☎ 71189

**Gay Cherokee Wants Boyfriends!**  
I am from Oklahoma, love blondes. Drop me a line, I love Mike Crews, Charles Ely, Zakkhanson, Aaron Carter, and Michael Lucas. ☎ 71190

**"Love To Suck Horny Men!"**  
Any race, age 30-50 yrs. old. (I'm 6', 165 GWM). 6' or more. OK under 200lbs. "Please." If you feel horny- Just call me, I also go deep! ☎ 71191

**Brazilian 5'7", 142# Seeking "GWM"**  
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**GWM Seeks Man Of Color Top!**

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**Hot Horny Hairy Homo Erectus**  
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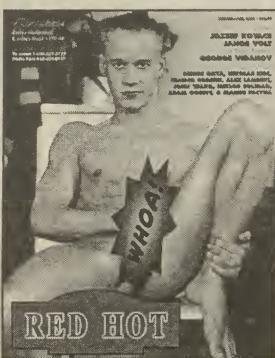
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# Singing the body electric

by Jason Serinus

David Del Tredici  
*Secret Music - A Songbook* (CRI)

It's no secret that David Del Tredici (b. 1937, Cloverdale, CA) has always been, by his own admission, "out on a limb" musically. This songbook, a collection of three sets of songs written between 1996 and 1999, shows that he has certainly not become more conservative as he has entered his 60s. If anything, since his recent public declaration of his homosexuality, and the incorporation of gay themes into his compositions, the mature Del Tredici has become even more "in your face" than ever.

The CD *Secret Music's* release coincided with last week's San Francisco world premiere of *Gay Life*, the composer's 45-minute song cycle for baritone and orchestra. It also precedes the May 17 New York premiere of *Brother*, eight song operatic scenes composed for performance artist and poet John Kelly. Kelly sings four of the *Brother* songs on this CD.

Some history is in order. Del Tredici became known early on as a concert pianist, performing major concertos with the San Francisco Symphony. After a period of writing dissonant serial music in the '60s, often to texts by James Joyce, he began his return to tonality at the same time that he became obsessed with Lewis Carroll's story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The composer gained fame and notoriety for his numerous wild *Alice* pieces, written mostly for voice and large orchestra. These include *Adventures Underground* (1972), which brought cheers and screams from a recent SFS Mavericks Festival audience; *Final Alice* (1975), which the composer describes as "a huge burst of tonality"; *In Memory of a Summer Day*, which received the 1980 Pulitzer Prize for Music; and the still-unperformed opera *Dum Dee Tweedle* (1992).

Many years of separating his musical persons from his personal life; experiences with 12-Step recovery from alcohol and sex addiction; losing a lover to AIDS; and courses with Oakland's Body Electric School (founded by Joseph Kramer) integrating Eros, heart, and spirit, led to Del Tredici's total public embrace of his gayness. With his liberation came a virtual outburst of song. In the last five years, he has written over 50 songs, 12 of which comprise this 75-minute disc. All are accompanied, in grand fashion, by the composer.

## Pain relief

*Miz Inez Sez*, a cycle of five songs for very high soprano and piano, sets the poetry of the American Colette Inez. The composer explains that "as had James Joyce, so now does Colette Inez touch my damaged Catholic nerve, which is a spot full of hurt and, paradoxically, humor — that effective, if temporary, antidote to pain."

There is nothing temporary about these songs. Sung by the extraordinary Hila Plitmann, to whom they are dedicated "with admiration and friendship," they are a hilarious, wild, totally irreverent romp that deserves a permanent place in the classical song literature. Plitmann is alternately sweet, touching, dramatic beyond belief, and astounding in her virtuosity. Everyone involved pulls

out all the stops, including slams on the piano, the widest possible vocal range, coloratura leaps, and musical/linguistic excursions to the seeming edge of sanity. Though CRI's recording gives Del Tredici's virtuosic pianism too much prominence, making resort to the liner notes essential for extracting every bit of humor and irony from these gems, the rewards are worth it. Without wishing to give anything away, I shall simply say that, from now on, I shall treat every sample of Armour baloney as a holy sacrament.

The 3 *Baritone Songs*, drawn from the 1999 nine-song *Inspirational Song* cycle, are set to poems clearly relevant to Del Tredici's life. Rumi's "Quietness," a poem

about love and transcendence; Michael Klein's loud "Drinking Song," in which alcohol and sex fail to submerge pain; and Jaime Manrique's "Matthew Shepard," which hypothesizes the young gay martyr's final inward journey as he dies tied to a fence, are sung by baritone Chris Pedro Trakas. The composer's language is quite personal, neither as showy nor as immediately revealing as in the *Inez* cycle. Trakas has a fine voice, strong and solid in declamation, but possessed of a somewhat distractingly wobbly when singing slow legato passages. While "Drinking Song" is an undeniable success, questions arise as to whether Del Tredici fully captures the transcendent spirituality of

the other poems.

John Kelly initially made his mark in *Paved Paradise*, a one-person show in which he "channeled" Joni Mitchell while singing 18 of her songs. Here, he channels his own, very gay love poetry. Without benefit of visuals, we are left with a less-than-perfect voice which varies between baritone and sweet falsetto. The subject matter is ripe and quite appealing, the music interesting and highly accessible, but occasionally pedantic in its repetition.

Though Del Tredici constantly receives major commissions from orchestras and ensembles — he's currently writing a String Quartet with voice for the Elements String Quartet which sets the poem



"Wondrous the Merge" by celebratory gay poet James Broughton — shockingly few of his works are available on disc. This CD of "secret music" celebrating "beauty spots to be cherished" is sure to open ears and eyes, and win Del Tredici a much-deserved following. Unless you're the Pope himself, I can't imagine you not loving *Miz Inez Sez*, and leaving a copy at the grave of your favorite parochial school teacher. ▼

# Janet's new planet

by Alex Robertson Textor

Janet Jackson's albums are events, somehow beyond mere collections of songs. She takes her time to deliver them. Virtually devoid of filler, they always do more than simply showcase the radio hits.

Janet's latest full-length album *All for You* was released on April 24, after what has to have been one of the best promotional lead-ups in recent memory. The requisite television appearances and magazine covers (*Vibe* and *TV Guide* in particular) were key elements of the hype, but what really tipped the scales in Janet's favor was MTV's inaugural *Icon* broadcast in March. The *Icon* event, replete with tributes from many of her colleagues, situated her in the loftiest league of living pop stars.

The hubbub certainly did the trick. First week sales for *All for You* are projected in the 500,000-600,000 range.

*All for You* is for the most part a return to light-hearted Janet,

after the purportedly deeply personal subject matter of *Velvet Rope* (1997). There's considerably less of the attention to social injustice present in much of Janet's past work, and a conscious embrace of matters of pleasure and sex. These are songs about love, emerging from relationships intact, wanting to fall in love, getting down, and rejecting negative influences. Even the songs about deceit and love lost turn on transcendence and determination more than anger.

Joining Janet's longtime producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis on several tracks is hip-hop producer star Rockwilder. Advance news was that Janet had worked on a number of songs with white-hot production team the Neptunes (behind Kelis and Mystikal, among others); mysteriously, they don't show up here.

## Beat rip

Standouts on the album include the current single release "All for You," a track whose scorching, beat-ripping enthusiasm renders it the most unapolo-

getically joyous song on radio at present, the next single "Someone to Call My Lover," and "Trust a Try," which merges R&B operatics with a harder rock structure. But it's difficult to sort through an album like this one for standouts. Most of its tracks are inventive and unpredictable, yet completely accessible. To give one example, the strained, distorted electronic beats of "When We Oooo" transform an unremarkable song into an extremely unusual ballad.

Another great example can be found in the collaboration between Janet and Carly Simon, "Son of a Gun." "Son" reprises Simon's hit "You're so Vain," reconfiguring the original song completely into a funky conversation between the two women. The song is unusual in that it yields a structure and a sound unlike anything else on radio. "Son of a Gun" could be one of the biggest hits of the year, though it also might be too unusual for radio to swallow.

Janet rips into erotic territory on "Would You Mind," a song followed by an interlude ("Lame") in



which she laments how quickly men come to orgasm. On the title track, currently tearing up radio, she praises "nice package," proclaiming that she's "gonna have to ride it tonight." There are other naughty bits strewn throughout. Kinda nasty, sure, but next to Eminem's troubled rants and Lil' Kim's odes to fellatio, Janet's lyrics seem like tame, veiled fun for kids.

One gets the feeling that Janet has little to prove, and that's what makes the overall impression so sweet. Though she receives considerably less critical acclaim than other female vocalists with her lasting power and writing history, with *All for You* it's as if Janet can emerge from that reality by simply being exuberant. *All for You* is effortless Janet. ▼

## Picasso

◀ page 34

and, one by one, the lines, the drips, the fields of color materialize magically and come slowly together into the inimitable style of the master. How did they do that? Then another drawing. Then another. A musical accompaniment to the draughtsman's ballet begins. Then another.

Just when — hard as it may be to believe — you become bored watching the invisible Picasso create works of art, the director gives away the secret, and a second camera films the principle camera, set up behind an easel, where old Picasso is painting away with inks that penetrate a translucent canvas.

Once the "secret" of Picasso's, or really Clouzot's, technique is revealed, the dramatic tension disappears. (The cinematographer is Claude Renoir, grandson of painter Auguste, and nephew of filmmaker Jean.) At that point, you either care a great deal about the process of the creation of an artwork, or you do not.

The soundtrack is downright distracting. As the substitute for dialogue, the music (by Georges Auric) is mostly overwrought, and filled with an urgency more appropriate for an American social drama like *Rebel Without a Cause*



*The Mystery of Picasso* creates its own genre.

than as the accompaniment to the painting of a reclining female nude. Only when some passionate flamenco plays as a bullfight scene is composed on the screen does the music not jar the viewer. There are also some nice jazz percussion bits that accompany the first linear, geometric compositions, which appear — bam! — in staccato rhythms and patterns, rather than in slow, fluid brushstrokes.

Still, there are wonderful mo-

ments in this curious marriage of entertainment and art. Some choice touches of Clouzot the director of film noir-ish thrillers peek through when, for example, the protagonist is preceded onto the screen by a white puff of smoke against a dark background. For those who truly care about the creative process, there are fascinating scenes showing how a Picasso becomes a Picasso. A woman's head changes form 20 times, from cubist to neo-classical

and back again as the artist works out his visual choices on canvas. In the final scenes, the artist moves on to a large oil painting of a beach scene. Each brushstroke is recorded, and the whole presented as a montage, again without the artist present. The painting morphs and changes until Picasso declares it ruined... then he fixes it.

Although the 75-year-old Picasso was well past his prime and had entered a period generally dismissed as a coda by art historians, it is still a thrill to see him in action and to hear him speaking to the director in French with a heavy Spanish accent. But when he speaks, Picasso the actor is surprisingly wooden and unconvincing as Picasso the artist.

*The Mystery of Picasso* is a film that creates its own genre. Go see it; it was hidden away for years, and it provides rare documentation of the actual person who was the greatest artist of the 20th century. You are reminded of that fact as you watch a beautiful drawing of a nude model, an old artist, and an easel take shape, and you think, "Don't obliterate that sensuous line with a wash of ink!" But then Picasso does it, and it's perfect. That's because he's Picasso, and you're not. ▼

*The Mystery of Picasso* plays the Castro May 11-17.

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Scott (415) 414-1132 Pg# In or Out  
E20

33 5'8", 150# toned hairy tattooed

**SMALL PRO HANDS**

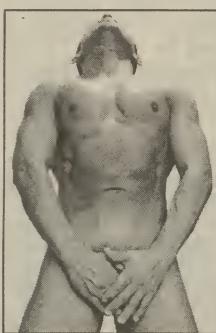
Jeff 415-215-8396 Out only  
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Smooth blonde hot 22 yo 5'7", 135

**XY NEW BOYTOY**

Hot & horny boy 948-9589 Jason  
E19

## MODEL/ESCORTS



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**DARK, SENSUAL EYES  
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will be escorting in  
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**5' 140 lbs Ripped Muscle  
16" arms, 26" waist,  
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Very handsome, masculine, & Hung  
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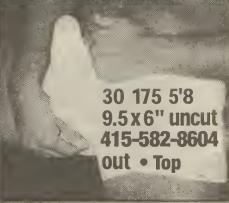
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ping-hot wife shy not bi guy rubseenstripes  
well-read rad ivy-grad gr8test butt un-dun  
dum joq rock cut 6.6by6 in. '69 then 69 in.  
2 u-mayl truck Ruck@doglover.com and  
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**Horny Spanish Scorpio**



**30 175 5'8  
9.5 x 6" uncut  
415-582-8604  
out • Top**

**Joey  
786.1427**



**29yo  
5'8"  
150#  
Filipino  
in or out;  
24 hours  
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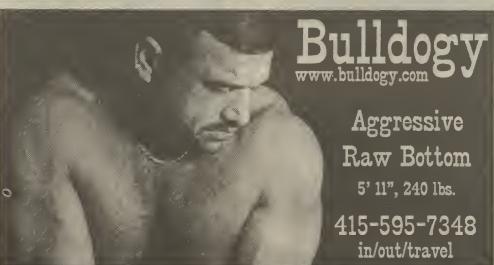
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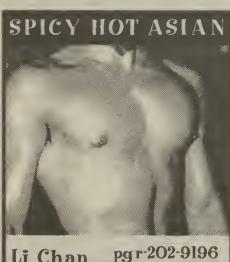
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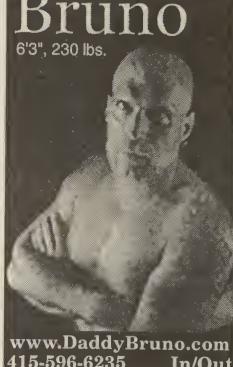
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Handsome Masculine\* Hung\*Dude  
KICKS BACK FOR YOU  
5'11"-175-Br/Gr-30's-8" Days OK  
SoMa--Randy 309-1032 \$75./in  
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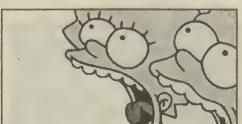
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